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THE BEST VALUE SATURDAY PAPER

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MAGAZINE

20 PAGE EXTRA
100 MASTERS OF CRIME

THE TIMES

40P

No. 66,179 SATURDAY APRIL 18 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

Bored studio audience walks out

Scratchcard lottery show faces BBC axe

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is planning to drop its controversial National Lottery Big Ticket Show after its current run, with executives branding it a public relations disaster. Crisis talks have been held this week between the BBC and Camelot about the Saturday night show, which is only three weeks into its 16-week run.

Insiders say the BBC has already decided not to exercise its option to renew the contract for the show, and some of the remaining shows may be "revamped" following disappointing audience ratings of about seven million.

Two weeks ago, nearly half of the 300-strong studio audience walked out during filming because they were bored. Producers had to persuade the remaining people to bunch up to make the studio look full.

The BBC, however, denied that there had been talks about axing the show, which is built around a £2 scratchcard, and insisted that it was happy with it. "We cannot say whether we are carrying on with the show at the end of 16 weeks because we haven't decided yet," a spokeswoman said.

MPs have censured the BBC for endorsing the new scratchcard, claiming it breaches it status as a non-commercial, public service broadcaster and Charities have accused the BBC of promoting the "world's biggest gambling show" and helping to boost Camelot's profits. Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Culture Select Committee, said Lord Reith would be "turning in his grave" at the BBC's relationship with Camelot.



The show, hosted by Anthea Turner, was launched amid much hype as the lottery's biggest extravaganza to date. It costs the BBC a reported £500,000 to make each 50-minute show and Camelot has spent £7 million promoting the game.

The show is linked to the TV Dreams scratchcard and was designed to boost flagging sales of scratchcards generally, but sales have remained virtually unchanged at about £14 million since the show started last month. Camelot refused to divulge the figures for the £2 card, but admitted: "Sales have been slower than anticipated."

Camelot executives are known to have been frustrated by the BBC's decision to ban its name from being linked to the scratchcard — even though one of the prizes is a place on the show. It also refused to let Ms Turner or her co-presenter Patrick Kielty be photographed with the ticket.

A Camelot source said: "It has been a nightmare to market because we cannot show any link to the BBC, even though that's the whole point of it."

The BBC's producer guidelines warn against competitions which "risk being interpreted as gambling or a lottery". They state that the Lotteries and Amusements Act of 1976 may be contravened if "a viewer competition is based on a game of chance and some sort of donation, purchase or contribution is made".

A BBC insider said: "I think this is a nightmare some BBC bosses would like to put behind them, but they will not admit they made a mistake."

The BBC spokeswoman denied that it amounted to the show being axed. "There were only ever going to be 16 shows" she said. "There will be some changes, but I'm not in a position to say what they are. That it the nature of live shows, you are always amending them."

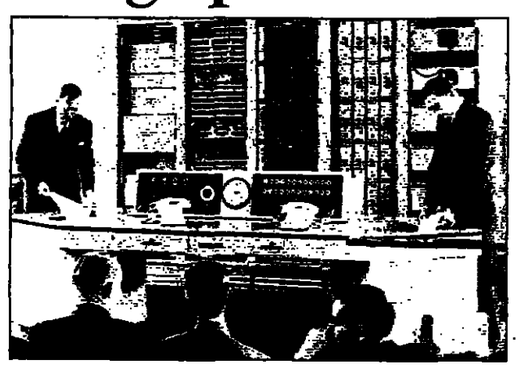
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BARRY GREENWOOD



Louise O'Connor at the tiny console of Ernie yesterday and, right, the giant of 1957

Ernie, a golden oldie, attracts big spenders



BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

PREMIUM BONDS, once the favourite investment of canny grannies and penny-pinching junior clerks, are fighting back against the National Lottery as the rich discover they make an extremely attractive punt.

National Savings, which runs Premium Bonds, announced yesterday that more have been sold in the past 36 months than in the previous 37 years. A £1million jackpot was introduced in 1993.

About 130,000 people have invested the maximum £20,000, among them top corporate financiers and captains of industry. While the prizes have grown, the technology for picking winners has shrunk. In 1957, when Premium Bonds were started, Ernie — Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment — the computer which picks winners, was 7ft by 18ft and thundered and churned to pick his random winners. Now, Ernie is based in the same office at Marton, near Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, but is a trim 9in by 18in.

Last year was a record year for Premium Bonds — £3.2 billion worth were sold, an increase of 23 per cent on the previous year. In 1993 there were just 2.8 billion bonds. Today, there are 9.8 billion. Investors calculate that, as a bet, they make more sense than the National Lottery. Prizes — from £50 to £1million — on a maximum investment can outstrip the best High Street deposit accounts.

A £1,000 investment gives a 1 in 20 chance of winning a prize every each month, with a 1 in 9,870,000 chance of winning the jackpot. A £20,000 investment gives a 1 in 5 chance of winning a prize and a 1 in 493,371 jackpot chance.

The chance of winning the National Lottery jackpot is 14 million to 1, longer odds than on the chances of being run over by a bus.

The monthly Premium Bond draw could not be more different from its lottery rival. A security officer from National Savings, a computer technician, and two more members of the National Savings staff gather before Ernie and press a button. A few minutes later, out pops the list of the month's winners. Anonymity is guaranteed.

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Police killer highlighted failure of community care

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL AND STEWART TENDLER

A PARANOID schizophrenic who stabbed a policewoman to death with a kitchen knife when she led a team of officers to arrest him was sent to a top-security mental hospital without time limit yesterday.

As Magdi Elgizouli returned to Rampton Hospital, where he has been held since killing WPC Nina Mackay last October, mental health reformers described the case as a "classic scenario" of the failures of care in the community.

One hundred and fifty people have been killed by mental health patients in the past six years. An inquiry into the latest case was announced last night. The Government is due to publish a green paper with proposals for dealing with the most dangerous patients at liberty next month.

The Old Bailey had been told that 30-year-old Elgizouli had been granted bail twice in the ten days before the killing, having duped psychiatrists about his mental state: he had previously been committed under the Mental Health Act and plans were in train to commit him to hospital again on the night he killed WPC Mackay.

He had for years believed that he was being persecuted by police and had twice attacked passers by in the street without warning because he thought they were undercover officers.

When 25-year-old WPC Mackay smashed through the front door of his flat in Stratford, east London, his worst nightmare appeared to have come true. He plunged the 7in knife to the hilt into her chest.

WPC Mackay, who had removed her heavy police armour in order to wield an hydraulic enforcer ram at his front door, screamed at her colleagues "I've been stabbed" and collapsed. She died in hospital two hours later.

Nigel Sweeney, for the prosecution, said that the police had been warned that Elgizouli was dangerous and that caution was needed when they went to arrest him for breaching bail conditions and being in possession of a knife.

Mr Sweeney said the plan was for WPC Mackay to smash open the door using the enforcer. She was then to step aside as two teams of three officers, protected by shields and body armour, moved in to make the arrest. But she ignored calls from her colleagues to move aside and kept going.

"It was clear that she was nervous as it was the first time she had used the enforcer," he said. "She did not want to let her colleagues down by failing in her task."

She had completed her training with the enforcer only days before, but managed with the first blow to break open the door. "Tragically, she did not stand aside, but went ahead of the other officers. She ran into the hall and was told to get out of the way by her colleagues." Elgizouli was

Continued on page 2, col 5

Life of dedication, page 7

Himmler's 'little doll' saves Nazis

Feted by old Nazis just as she was by her father, Heinrich Himmler's daughter paraded around an SS veterans rally in Austria.

Like the children of Martin Bormann and Hermann Goering, Gudrun Burwitz knows the fame attached to having such madmen as fathers but, unlike them, she keeps alive the memory of her father, the architect of the Final Solution.

Gudrun Burwitz, nicknamed Puppi (little doll) by her father, has dedicated her life to protecting NazisPage 3



Gudrun Burwitz

New code may kill pensions schemes

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

A TOUGH code of selling practices for savings and pensions schemes, which could see nine out of ten fail the test, is planned by the Government.

The voluntary code of practice is to be launched by Helen Liddell, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, within weeks. It will tie in with the launch of the new Individual Savings Accounts (ISA), which are expected to be sold at supermarket tills. It is expected to be so stringent that industry experts estimate only 10 per cent of financial products will meet the guidelines.

Though the code may be voluntary, those with products that do not fit the benchmarks may be driven out of the industry. The new system of benchmarking is likely to come as a further blow to companies reeling under a personal pensions mis-selling scandal that is set to cost City firms nearly £11 billion in compensation.

The proposed system of benchmarking will lay down criteria on price. Schemes with high management and commission charges will be excluded. To meet the demands of a mobile workforce, schemes must be flexible with no penalties for those with changing financial circumstances — the key words will be portability and transparency.

Initially the selling code will be for ISAs, which replace Personal Equity Plans (Peps) and Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts (Tessas). Eventually the benchmarking code is to be extended to stakeholder pensions — a government plan to encourage the millions who rely on the state in the old age to make extra pension provisions.

Mark Wood, head of Sun Life, the insurance company, said: "We are making complicated products into a simple commodity, with a sticker slapped on the side claiming that it is all right. People should be looking at performance."

Commentary, page 29
Protection, pages 58, 59

Five ton Lara out for a duck

Four years ago Brian Lara scored a world record 501 for Warwickshire against Durham. Yesterday, on the same ground, against the same opponents, the West Indian Test player faced only eight balls and was out for a duck, caught off John Wood who last season took only 11 championship wickets. Lara also lost the tossPage 34

Dead at 117

Marie Louise Meilleur, the world's oldest person, has died aged 117 in an Ontario home. She had 10 children, 85 grandchildren, 80 great-grandchildren and 57 great-great grandchildren. *(Reuters)*

Mandela blow

Nelson Mandela's Government was dealt a body blow to its executive powers yesterday after South Africa's white-run rugby establishment won a High Court actionPage 12

JEFF BRIDGES JOHN GOODMAN JULIANNE MOORE STEVE BUSCEMI JOHN TURTURRO

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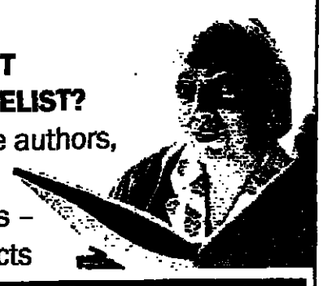
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MONDAY



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Four first-time authors, three top literary agents – and the verdicts

Under the skin of sport

THE BATTLE FOR RUGBY'S PREMIERSHIP:
Saracens v Newcastle

TUESDAY

RICHARD CORK'S round-up of the Henry Moore centenary shows

WEDNESDAY

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ENGLAND V PORTUGAL:
Glen Hoddle's final run-up to the World Cup

THURSDAY

Books: Paddy Ashdown reviews Noel Malcolm's A Short History of Kosovo

FRIDAY

Arts: Why do some groups fail to make it in America?
Media: Chris Powell, the man behind **Cool Britannia**, reveals all



SATURDAY
In the magazine: Isabel Allende on food and other lovers

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Blair tries to rally Unionists before peace deal vote

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

TONY BLAIR yesterday mounted an all-out effort to rally support for Northern Ireland's new peace agreement before today's critical meeting of the Ulster Unionist Party's ruling council.

As David Trimble struggled to keep his worried troops in line, the Prime Minister gave a string of interviews to Northern Ireland's media in which he battled to allay Unionist concerns on prisoner releases, paramilitary disarmament and police reform.

In a speech to bankers in New York, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, promised a big international economic "peace dividend" for Northern Ireland. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, offered another sweetener by announcing a £17 million grant to complete the funding for a huge new £90 million educational and entertainment complex in Belfast's docklands.

For Mr Trimble, today's marathon meeting of the 860-member Ulster Unionist Council at Belfast's much-bombed Europa Hotel will be the sternest test of his political career. He said he was confident that the council would back the agreement, but it faces strong opposition from half his fellow MPs, the Orange Order and other important elements of the party. Defeat would mean the end of Mr Trimble's leadership, and probably of the agreement. The dissidents mostly accept the new constitutional and political structures, but are appalled by the prospect of Sinn Fein leaders participating in Northern Ireland's government, all IRA prisoners being released within two years, and the agreement's failure to guarantee paramilitary disarmament.

In a succession of interviews before his midday departure for the Middle East, Mr Blair insisted that anyone affiliated to an organisation that had not completely renounced violence would be excluded from office. Prisoners would be released on licence, after individual assessments, and "only in the context of genuine, lasting peace". The object of police reform was simply to ensure that the Royal Ulster Constabulary enjoyed the support of both communities.

He urged the people of Northern Ireland to put pressure on their politicians. The peace process "now either moves forward decisively or it could go back disastrously," he warned, adding: "What the Ian Paisleys of this world are saying about the document is just nonsense." Dr Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, is leading the campaign to defeat the agreement.

Mr Trimble went further, insisting that "any attempt to ease into office paramilitaries who have not provided a commitment to peaceful means by decommissioning or other equally effective means will precipitate a crisis in the Assembly. We will not serve alongside such persons".

The UUP leader also sought to rally Unionist support by arguing that the agreement was "a disaster for Sinn Fein-IRA. Violent republicanism has failed to smash the Union. Instead Northern Ireland's place within the United Kingdom has been secured."

He found an unlikely ally in the 32 County Sovereignty Committee, the group of Sinn Fein dissidents opposed to the peace talks. At a press conference yesterday, it claimed that the agreement strengthened the Union and challenged Sinn Fein to debate a motion opposing the deal at the party's annual conference in Dublin this weekend.

Sinn Fein leaders admit there is some "hostility" towards the agreement inside the party. Pat Doherty, the party's vice-president, said members were "entirely unhappy" with the plan to end Dublin's constitutional claim to the North.

Make or break, page 8
Letters, page 23

Middle East 'can learn from Ulster'

From Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR flew into Egypt last night and pledged to borrow the lessons from Northern Ireland to try to revive the faltering Middle East peace process.

The Prime Minister, speaking to reporters on his aircraft shortly before touchdown at the start of a five-day tour, said that the breakthrough in Ulster had been an inspiration across the world, including the Middle East. "I think it is possible to make progress but only if there is a determined sense of willingness on both sides to do so."

Mr Blair, conducting the peace mission as part of Britain's presidency of the EU, said that the consequences were grim if the stalemate was not broken. "It is extremely important to try to make progress because otherwise, if we don't, the show slips backwards."

He conceded that there was a stand-off between the Israelis and the Palestinians over developments in the occupied territories. The impasse threatened the entire peace process. Mr Blair confirmed that he would seek throughout talks in Egypt, Saudia Arabia, Jordan, and Israel to give the EU an official role in the negotiations to reflect the fact more than £320 million has been given to aid Palestinian economic development — twice the amount from the United States in the last four years.

The Palestinian Authority yesterday called on America and Britain to pressure Israel to move ahead with the peace process as the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported that right-wing Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was planning a "charm offensive" for Mr Blair.

David Makovsky, a respected diplomatic correspondent, quoted Israeli officials as saying that Mr Netanyahu's diplomatic tactics were designed to get the British Prime Minister to use his influence "to get the European Union off Israel's back".

He said that there was no sign that Israel was prepared to offer the Mr Blair "any special concessions on the peace process".



Holloway: to address gay and lesbian Christians

Bishop says Bible is root of homophobia

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE leader of the Anglican Church in Scotland today accuses the churches of homophobia and declares that Bible texts ruling out homosexual relationships are based on "ignorant misunderstanding".

The Right Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, will tell the conference of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement in London: "Violent homophobia is still alive and kicking, and much of it is motivated by religious zeal." In his address he goes on to apologise for the way that homosexuals have been treated by the churches.

Bishop Holloway's comments will cause further anguish in a church struggling to control the conflict over homosexuality. On Easter Day, the gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell was charged with "riotous or violent behaviour in a church" after disrupting the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon.

In Bishop Holloway's address, released yesterday to *The Times*, he predicts that the churches will eventually accept homosexuality. "The Bible, though it is one of our greatest treasures, is also our greatest danger," he says.

Bishop Holloway says that traditional religions are being abandoned as "primitive superstitions" because they are incapable of change. "This is why many feminists have abandoned Christianity," he says. "They see it as incurably patriarchal and oppressive."

He says the Bible can no longer be read as a fixed and unchanging law, but must be seen as "flawed and fallible". He continues: "We have recently abandoned the text's tyranny over women, as we abandoned its justification of slavery, and soon we'll abandon its ignorant misunderstanding of homosexuality."

"It must be acknowledged that there is a dynamic connection between the theological rejection of gay and lesbian people, based on the texts in question, and the persecution and abuse they have endured over the centuries, just as there is an obvious connection between anti-Jewish rhetoric in the New Testament and the Holocaust."

Bishop Holloway, 64, recently announced plans to leave the church and stand for the Scottish parliament.

Meanwhile, in a new book, Dr John Stott, Rector emeritus of All Souls, Langham Place, in central London, says homosexual relationships are "incompatible with with true love because they are incompatible with God's law".



Tatchell: charged over disrupting sermon

NEWS IN BRIEF

Child killer moved out of London police cell

Sidney Cooke, the convicted child killer, was handed over by London police to another force yesterday in a holding operation until he begins life in long-term accommodation under the supervision of probation officers.

Cooke was smuggled out of Leman Street police station in East London and driven out to a provincial force.

Rail crash charge

The driver of the express train involved in the Southall rail crash, in which seven people died last September, was charged with manslaughter. Larry Harrison, 51, of Gravesend, Kent, will appear before magistrates next month.

Doctor jailed

A doctor who indecently assaulted women waiting for treatment in the Grantham Hospital casualty unit where he worked was jailed for three years. Yvan Macky had been found guilty of two charges at Lincoln Crown Court.

Radio rebuke

Virgin Radio has been reprimanded for the second time in a month by the Radio Authority, which ruled that the station was carrying too many "plugs" for BSkyB. Chris Evans's breakfast show is sponsored by the TV station.

Britons freed

Four Britons held captive by fellow United Geophysical oil workers for four days have been freed by Nigerian police, reports said. Gordon Hutchinson, Andrew Odell, Mark Edward and Grevill Moteran were "unharmed". *(AFP)*

Police damages

Ian Corrigan, 27, a former Kent policeman whose career was ended in 1993 when he was knocked from his motorcycle by a car while he was answering an emergency call, was awarded £575,000 damages at the High Court.

Time is money

A watch from a steward on board the Titanic, its hands stopped forever at 2.16, the time the liner sank, sold for £15,000 at auction in Southampton. It belonged to Edmond Stone, 33, who drowned in the 1912 disaster.

The bottom line

Jason Woolfenden, 33, from Bournemouth, who pinched a policewoman's bottom in Queenstown, New Zealand, has been fined NZ$200 (about £65) but escaped a criminal conviction at Auckland district court. (AFP)

Police killer

Continued from page 1

lying in wait for her wielding the knife, and after WPC Mackay collapsed other officers jumped over her to pin her assailant down on a sofa with their shields.

Bruce Houlder QC, defending, said Elgizouli had stopped taking his medication, and friends and relatives were becoming increasing worried by his "strange and frightening behaviour". He said: "He is not an evil man. He is a very sick man. He is now filled with crushing sadness at was he has done."

Elgizouli, the son of a prominent Sudanese academic, was first diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic in 1992 when he appeared in court for an unprovoked attack on an 88-year-old man and assaulting a woman who came to his assistance. A hospital order was made by Croydon magistrates, but he was later released to be treated in the community.

Plausible and intelligent, he always denied he was ill and fooled many social workers and doctors about the severity of his condition.

After his release he got into more trouble but remained at large and stopped taking his medication. Ten days before the killing he was granted bail by a Highbury magistrate and was subsequently arrested in Worthing, Sussex for assaulting a shop assistant while stealing a toothbrush. He was granted bail for that offence too. He was assessed by psychiatrists before being freed. He convinced a doctor that he was not mentally ill.

Yesterday, however, his plea of manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility was accepted by the prosecution. Sentencing Elgizouli, the Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney, QC, said that doctors would have to decide if and when it would be safe to release him before the Secretary of State determined his discharge.

The dead officer's father, retired Chief Superintendent Sidney Mackay, said afterwards: "We must be sure he does not come out for many, many years until a tribunal, High Court judge or whoever, decides he is capable of going back onto the streets."

"What we have all got to remember is that psychiatrists in the past have been fooled by these people who have a great deal of art and guile to manipulate events to their advantage."

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of the mental health charity Sane, said the case was not an isolated tragedy and followed an all too familiar pattern. She said: "Despite his history he was allowed to slip through the community care net. We understand that he had stopped taking his medication and all other danger signals were ignored."

Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster Health Authority, which was responsible for Elgizouli's care, announced an immediate inquiry.



Nina Mackay: removed her heavy armour

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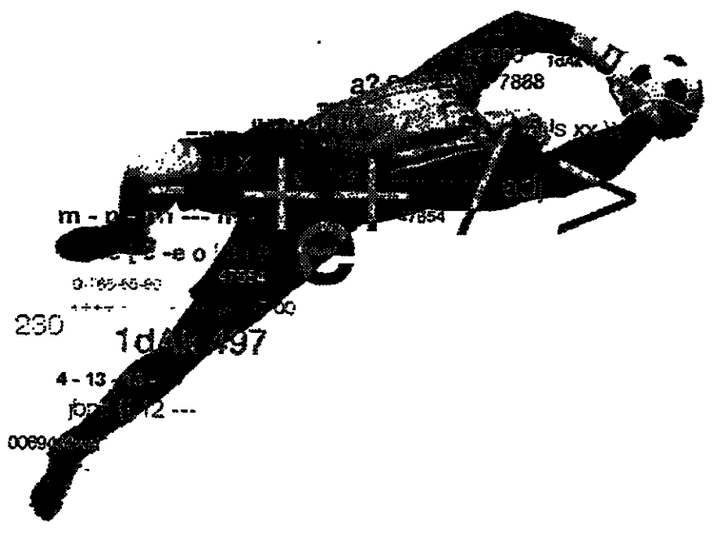
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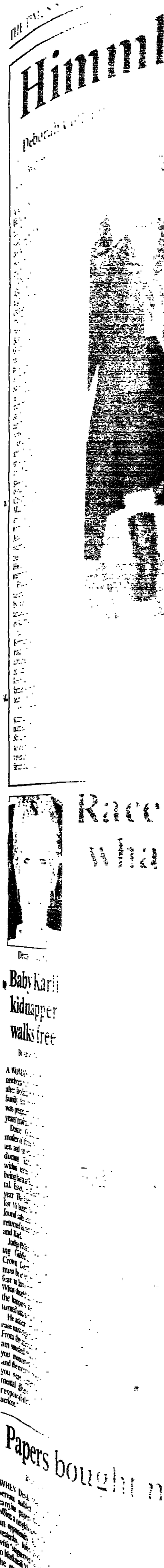
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Himmler's daughter helps ex-SS men

Deborah Collcutt reports from Frankfurt on the woman who is a living link with Nazi history



Himmler with Gudrun in 1938: he took her on a visit to Dachau concentration camp. Her diary said: "We saw everything we could"

A CHARITY partly run by Heinrich Himmler's daughter to help SS veterans is rallying support for a former concentration camp guard who faces prosecution for war crimes.

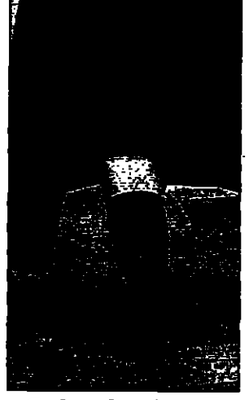
The group *Stille Hilfe* (Quiet Aid) supports former high-ranking Nazis and in the past it has helped some of the Third Reich's most prominent officers including Klaus Barbie and Erich Priebke. Gudrun Burwitz, 69, daughter of Adolf Hitler's leading henchman, does not deny she is currently involved with *Stille Hilfe*, describing herself simply as one of 23 members in a dying organisation: "It's true I help where I can, but I refuse to discuss my work."

One member the organisation helped to start a new life in southern Germany is Anton Malloth, a former SS guard at the Theresienstadt concentration camp in the Czech Republic. Herr Malloth, 87, is now being investigated in connection with the deaths of up to 700 Jews at the camp and is wanted by the Czech authorities to stand trial there. *Stille Hilfe* will send a letter to members appealing for help.

Frau Burwitz is feted by the veteran elite just as she was by her own father, and attended an SS veterans' rally in Austria.

Like the children of Martin Bormann and Hermann Goering, she knows the fame attached to having such men as fathers. Unlike them, she keeps alive the memory of her father — Himmler, the architect of the Final Solution.

She is Himmler's only legitimate child, whom he nicknamed "Puppi" (little doll). *Stille Hilfe* was set up in 1951 to help SS and senior Nazi veterans and their families financially, and if necessary



Gudrun Burwitz: will not discuss her work

give them a new identity in a faraway land.

Over 50 years after her father bit into a cyanide phial rather than face execution at the hands of the British who discovered him in northern Germany in the closing days of the war, Frau Burwitz commands respect.

"They were terrified of her," said Andrea Röpke, a respected authority on neo-Nazism who attended the rally in Ulrichsberg, northern Austria with Frau Burwitz. "All these high-ranking former officers lined up and she asked, 'Where did you serve?' showing off her vast knowledge of military logistics."

Physically, Frau Burwitz is nothing out of the ordinary, with her greying blonde hair scraped into a tight bun and her neat clothes. She lives in a detached house in the quiet Munich suburb of Fürstenried which she shares with her husband and student daughter. She carried her family surname until she married in her late 30s.

She was born in 1929, just over a year after her father married her mother, Marga, the blonde-haired, blue-eyed daughter of a wealthy East Prussian.

Gudrun remained the apple of her father's eye even after the marriage began to deteriorate and Himmler spent ever more time with his lover in Berlin.

Unable to bear him any more children, Marga, eight years older than her husband, adopted a boy but Himmler showed him little interest preferring instead to lavish "Puppi" with expensive gifts. His visits to the family home near Munich became so seldom that Gudrun was often flown up to Berlin just so her father, by then Germany's second most powerful man, could spend a few hours with her.

He was already involved in a passionate affair with his secretary, Hedwig Potthast, who bore him a much-wanted natural son, Helge. But Gudrun remained his favourite as she demonstrates in an entry in her war-time diary written when at the age of 12 when her father "spoiled" her with a day trip to one of the death camps: "Today we went to the SS concentration camp at Dachau. We saw everything we could. We saw the gardening work. We saw the pear trees. We saw all the pictures painted by the prisoners. Marvellous. And afterwards we had a lot to eat . . . it was very nice."

When her father committed suicide in the Allied interrogation centre near Lüneburg, on May 23, 1945, she was distraught when told the news. She was held with her mother in the British-occupied zone and detained in prison for four years.

Gudrun would later tell friends that they were worst years of her life and she had been made to suffer because of her father. Penniless after a life of privilege and social standing, mother ands daughter turned to *Stille Hilfe* when they were released from jail and were offered refuge in Bielefeld, where she taught herself bookbinding and dressmaking. Later, she moved to Munich, where she met and later married Dr Wulf-Dieter Burwitz, a writer who supported her as Marga fought in vain against cancer. The couple have two children in their early 20s, a son, now a qualified lawyer, and a daughter, who is a student.

They are comfortably off and now Frau Burwitz no longer works, she devotes all her time when she is not sewing or cooking for her children, to her father's extended family. Andrea Roepke, who advises the German government on the neo-Nazi scene, claims that *Stille Hilfe* is closely linked to a number of outlawed movements. The opposition Social Democratic party has called for an investigation into its charitable status, but Bonn has refused to act against it.



Denise Giddings

Baby Karli kidnapper walks free

BY ADAM FRESCO

A WOMAN who snatched a newborn baby from a hospital after fooling her friends and family for months that she was pregnant was given three years' probation yesterday.

Denise Giddings, 33, a mother of three boys aged 12, ten and seven, admitted abducting Karli Hawthorne within three hours of her being born at Basildon Hospital, Essex, in December last year. The baby was missing for 14 hours before she was found safe and well and was returned to her parents, Tanya and Karl.

Judge Philip Clegg, sentencing Giddings at Basildon Crown Court, told her: "It must be every mother's worst fear to have her child stolen. What should have been one of the happiest days of her life turned into a nightmare."

He added: "However, each case must depend on the facts. From the medical evidence, I am satisfied that, at the time you committed the offences and the months preceeding it, you were suffering from a mental illness that reduces responsibility for your actions."

Race to lure Orkney whales back to sea

BY GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE delicate task of guiding five sperm whales back to the open sea from the shallow waters of Scapa Flow is expected to go ahead within days.

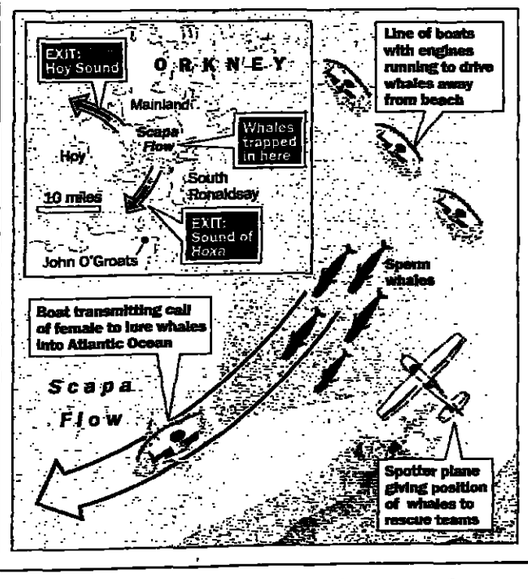
The whales, which are thought to have followed a tanker into the natural harbour on Tuesday, are being monitored for signs of injury or distress by Orkney Harbour Authority and the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Yesterday the five young males, ranging in length from 30ft to 60ft, lolled around in the water showing no signs of trying to escape. However, it is feared they may become hungry, panic and beach themselves.

In 1993, when six sperm whales became stranded in Scapa Flow, they were lured to safety by the seductive sounds of females played underwater. It is thought that a similar ploy will be used this time.

"It's crucial to understand the behaviour of the animals then formulate a plan which might manage to move them," said Alex Simpson, a marine biologist at the Orkney Department of Harbours. "It's difficult to predict whether the same method would work again."

The rescue operation will have to be handled with care to prevent the whales becoming agitated and swimming in the wrong direction towards the shore. They will have to be coaxed through one of the two exits from Scapa Flow — Hoxa Sound and Hoy Sound — both about 1½ miles wide with fast-flowing tidal waters.



The whales, which weigh up to 50 tons, were first spotted by a group of divers examining the remains of the German fleets scuttled in Scapa Flow in both world wars.

A warning to all shipping in the area was issued and reminders are being broadcast daily on Radio Orkney. Scapa Flow is a busy thoroughfare, used by ferries sailing between Mainland and outlying islands, and pilot boats taking crews to oil tankers in the North Sea.

Mike Lynch of the SSPCA said: "The danger is that whales fall asleep on the surface of the water. If there were a collision between a sleeping whale and a boat there would be considerable damage to both parties."

"As far as we can tell they seem quite happy," said Mr Simpson, who checks on them every day. "They are moving about as a group, swimming on the surface."

At sea, sperm whales eat approximately one ton of fish and deep-sea squid each day. Pickings in Scapa Flow will be more meagre. Although they can survive for up to four weeks on their thick layers of blubber, they will grow weak without proper sustenance.

"When they start to weaken there is a chance they will starve," Mr Lynch said. "Then they will become distressed and beach themselves. That is why we have to take the opportunity to rescue them while we can. It won't be easy but it is a chance worth taking."

Papers bought nothing but trouble

BY TIM JONES

WHEN Derek Plews, a senior civil servant, nodded off on a train while carrying papers from John Prescott's office, a neighbouring passenger spotted an opportunity. But, a court was told yesterday, John Boddington behaved with "staggering naivety" when he tried to blackmail Mr Plews over the return of the papers, which included ministers' personal telephone numbers.

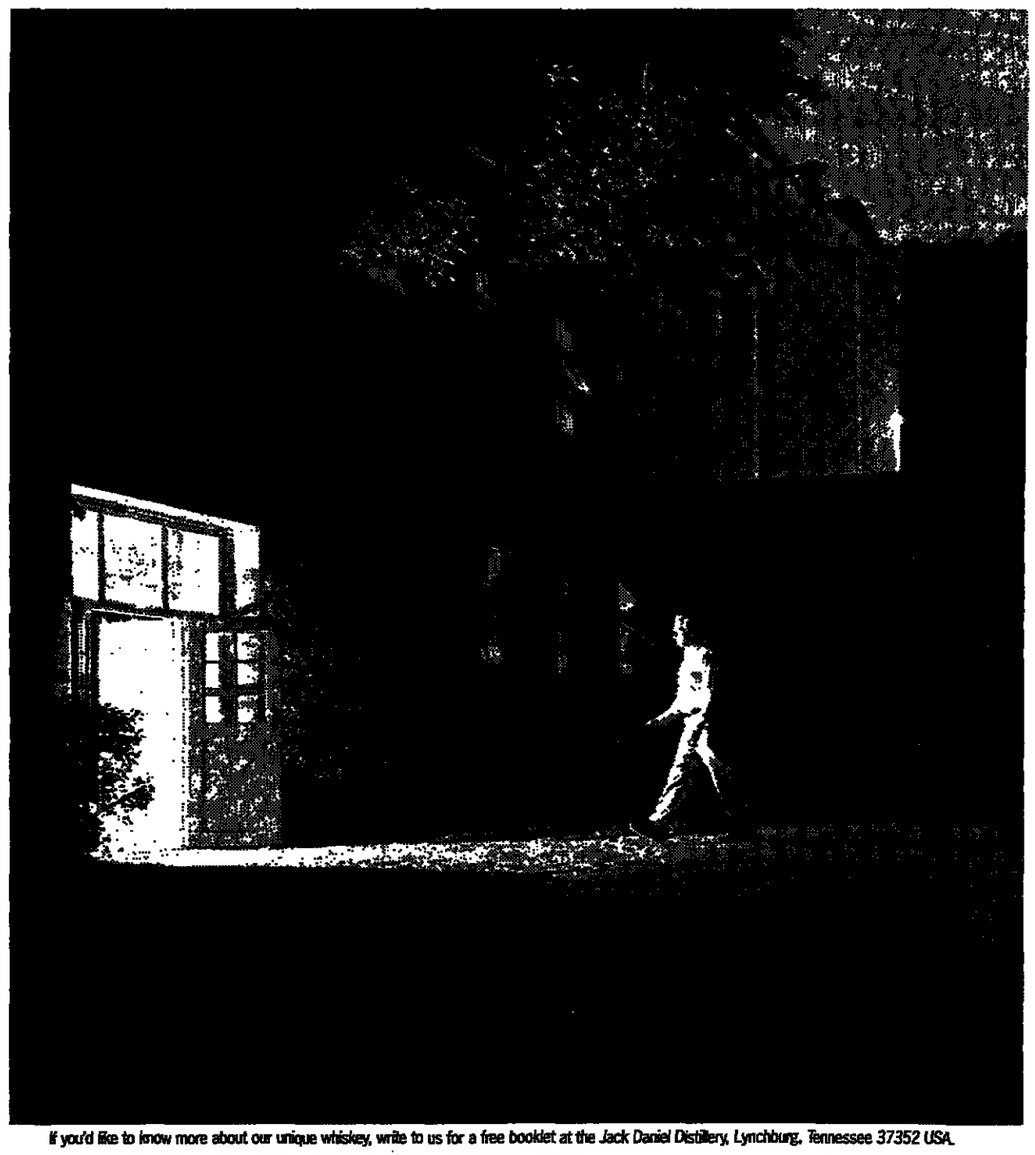
Simon Laws, for the prosecution, said that Mr Plews had taken a late train from Marylebone to Amersham, Buckinghamshire, after a leaving party for a colleague at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions in October. At home he realised that he did not have the bag and later he received a telephone call from Boddington, 48, who asked for a reward of £500.

After being that told the documents were not sensitive, Boddington, a former drug addict, dropped his demand to £100 and said that, if it was not paid, he would sell the story to a newspaper. The conversations were recorded and Boddington was arrested when he went to meet Mr Plews on a footpath near a railway crossing.

Boddington said that he had been justified in asking for a reward because Mr Plews had been careless and the documents would have caused a political incident in the wrong hands. Mr Plews, he said, deserved to be punished because his conduct had been irresponsible.

Iain Wicks, for Boddington, said: "The conduct of this defendant is almost unbelievably foolish. He behaved with quite staggering naivety. He has never been astute and walked into his own arrest, something a more intelligently blessed member of the community might readily have seen. He has suffered from a serious drug habit and has been quite seriously ill. He had very little money and, almost like a child, when confronted with this situation thought that his ship had come in." He said Boddington had claimed that most of the money would have been given charity and the rest used to buy tobacco.

Boddington, of Aylesbury, admitted blackmail. Judge Anthony Kenny gave him a six-month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months because he said that Boddington had personal difficulties and his arrest had been inevitable.



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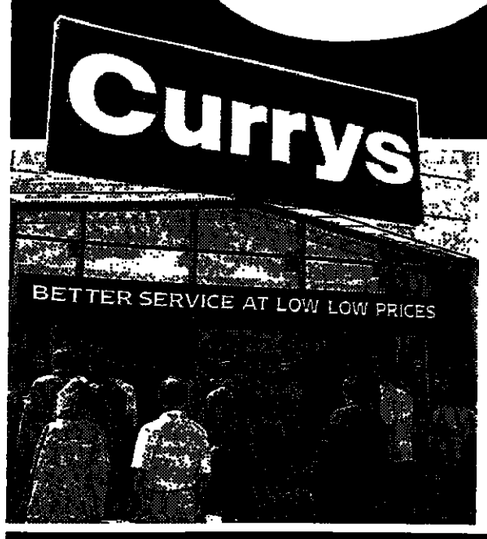
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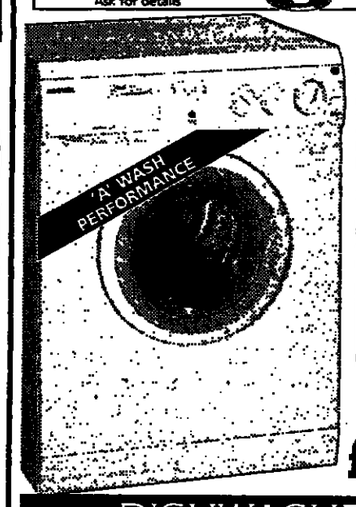
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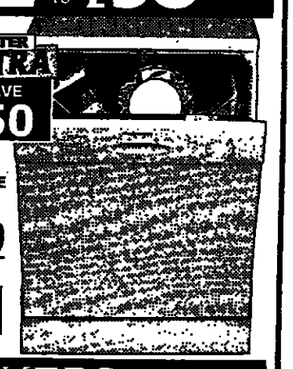
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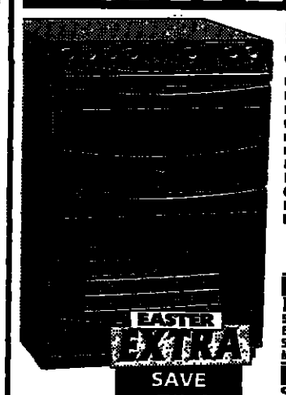
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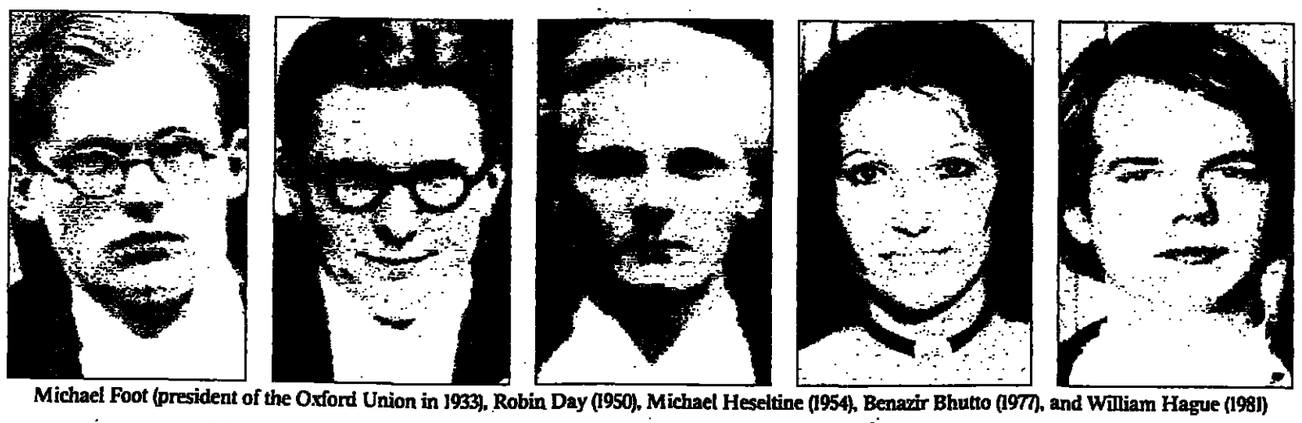
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هكذا من الأصل



Michael Foot (president of the Oxford Union in 1933), Robin Day (1950), Michael Heseltine (1954), Benazir Bhutto (1977), and William Hague (1981)

Oxford's brightest seek glittering prizes in City

Union presidents no longer see it as political training,

report **Mark Henderson** and **Kathryn Knight**

THE Oxford Union Society, once a finishing school for the budding politicians, is now a springboard for students who instead aspire to the more lucrative worlds of corporate finance, consultancy and law.

Of 90 former presidents who sat down last night to a dinner celebrating 175 years of the once great debating society, only five remain in the House of Commons, and few of the younger guests are lining up political careers.

No president elected after William Hague in 1981 has entered Parliament, and the 37-year-old Leader of the Opposition was the only speaker at last night's dinner who is not a pensioner. The others were the political veterans Sir Edward Heath, 81, Michael Heseltine, 65, and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, 77.

Recent alumni of the debating society where figures such as Macmillan and Benazir Bhutto cut their political teeth say the skills needed to run the modern union better suit a career away from Parliament.

The political mantle has been passed on to the union's rival, the National Union of Students. For the first time, the Cabinet includes a former NUS president, Jack Straw, but no ex-president of the society; and five recent graduates of the NUS entered the Commons last May compared with one from the union. Another former NUS president, Trevor Phillips, is a contender to be Labour's candidate to be the mayor of London.

The society has become as much a university entertainments committee as a forum for for oratory and discussion. Candidates for office canvass votes in a frenzied scramble that would have been unthinkable to their predecessors, and the organisational skills the post demands are attracting a different kind of student.

Michael Beloff, QC, a president of the union in 1962 and now president of Trinity College, said: "In my day you couldn't become president unless you were at least reasonably articulate. Because canvassing was banned, the election was won on the debate the night before. I lost once as the favourite because of a brilliant speech by my opponent.

"Now the primary skill needed seems to be bargaining blocks of votes. It takes the skills of a Mandelson rather than a Gladstone to win."

Robert Palmer, 25, a trainee barrister, said: "People with serious political ambitions are not becoming president in the way they used to. I can't think of any of my contemporary office-holders who are seriously contemplating a political career — they are going into law, the media or management consultancy. Running the union is great training for a management consultant."

Other recent presidents agreed. Katherine Wade, a 1993 president and now a trader at NatWest Markets, said the union was no longer the political forum it was in the days of Mr Beloff and Tariq Ali, another 1960s president. "Nine out of ten presidents aren't identified with any party. There's a range of things that have to get done by the president which aren't political at all. I doubt Michael Foot [president in 1933] had many balls and parties to organise when he did it."

Michael Crick, a president in 1979 who now reports for BBC2's *Newsnight*, said: "There seem to be fewer and fewer budding politicians in the union; they go off and do important things like banking and consultancy and the law. It seems to me the union is a much less political place."

Adrian Gannon, a 27-year-old merchant banker who presided over the union in 1992, said he had stood for office not because of political ambition but because he enjoyed the atmosphere of the debating chamber. "I don't think it has lost its potency, but people now want to do different things. I think it is still a real platform and tremendously useful for lots of different disciplines."

Of presidents since Mr Gannon, only Kate Wilson (1994) has taken a political job, as an assistant to the former Overseas Development Minister, Baroness Chalker.

The few recent presidents who have hit the campaign trail have found their union past is no longer a guaranteed passport to success. Jeremy Quin, president in 1990, stood for the Tories last May in a safe Plaid Cymru seat.

"It used to be that the majority of Conservative candidates went straight into a constituency, but that has changed now," he said. "You're expected to graft more, with experience in a career, perhaps be a councillor and fight a hopeless seat. He is keeping the day job, as director of corporate stockbroking at NatWest Securities.

Diary, page 22
Leading article, page 23



Katherine Wade: former union president who is now a trader at NatWest Markets

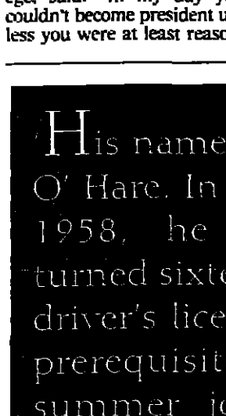


CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE

The current president, Ellie Blagbrough. Last night the union celebrated its 175 years

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BLOOMSBURY

Carer goes free after drugging woman, 93

BY TIM JONES

A SENIOR care assistant at an old people's home was spared prison yesterday for administering sedatives to a woman of 93 in the belief she wanted to die.

Joyce Franklin, 40, gave the overdose to Dorothy Clementson, at Albury House in Guildford, Surrey, who had spoken of her agony and said she wanted to go to sleep and die. Mrs Clementson survived and died naturally two months later.

Franklin, a mother of three, was given two years' probation at the Old Bailey. Judge Gerald Gordon said she had avoided prison mainly because of her own stressed mental state. The judge said: "Up until very shortly before the offence, staff and others found you to be very caring."

Jonathan Laidlaw, for the prosecution, said Frankin had been suffering from anxiety and depression after a period in hospital and should not have been working at the time. At an earlier hearing, she admitted administering a combination of prescription drugs unlawfully and recklessly, endangering life. Her plea of not guilty to attempted murder was accepted.

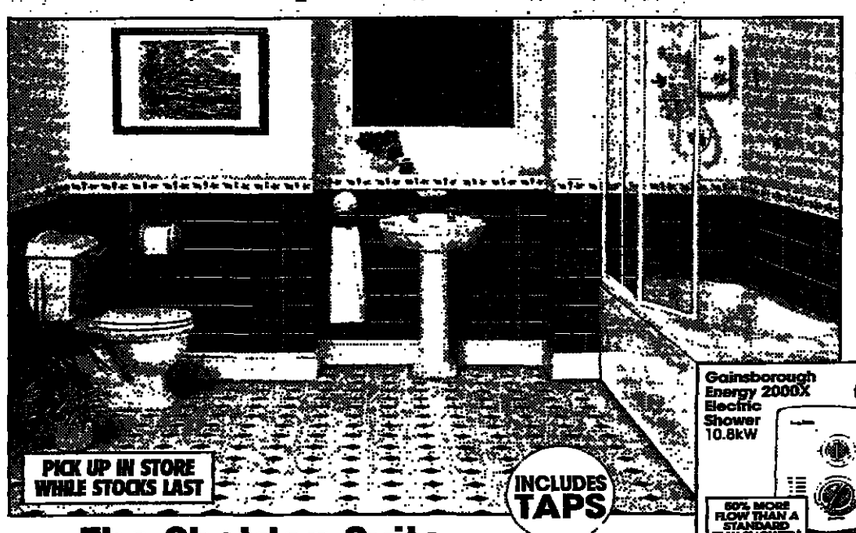
CORRECTION

A report (April 16) wrongly stated that an elephant that had died in winter quarters belonged to the Moscow State Circus. It did not, and in fact the circus tours in Britain without animals.

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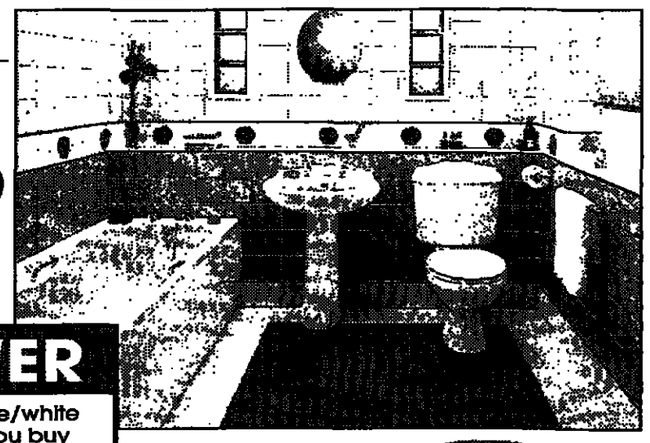
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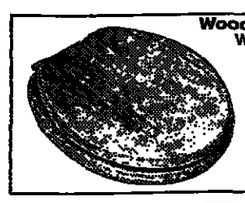
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Dolphin centre is forced out

Child therapy at risk as tourists take over aquarium, report **David Adams** and **Simon de Bruxelles**



Dolphin and child: their close encounters produce dramatic improvements which science has not fully explained. "This is not a cure or a miracle," parents are warned

ANDREW WINNING / REUTER

A DOLPHIN therapy centre which has helped hundreds of children to overcome severe handicaps is having to move to a new home, squeezed out by holidaymakers.

Each morning for the last four years, handicapped children, many from Britain, have gathered at the rear entrance to the Seaquarium in Miami, Florida. Most suffer neurological disorders such as autism, Down's syndrome and cerebral palsy. Their close encounters with dolphins produce dramatic improvements that science has not fully explained. Last month, the brain-damaged boy Nikki Brice, from Somerset, spoke his first words aged eight.

But tourists also want to swim with dolphins, and the Seaquarium is welcoming new visitors to the lagoon, closing its gates to children for whom playing with dolphins is more than a few minutes of fun. Next month, the therapy centre will move to Mexico, to an ecological theme park near the resort of Cancun on the east coast. For some children, the move could put an already expensive treatment out of financial reach, and less sophisticated medical facilities will mean turning down high-risk children, including those who depend on breathing or feeding tubes.

"It's not the end of the world, but there are better places to run a programme," David Nathanson, a Scots-born neuropsychologist who founded the centre and leased eight dolphins for the therapy, said. "But the Seaquarium is not in the business of healing kids. They think they can make more money with the swim-with-the-dolphins programme. I can't knock them for that."

The dolphin therapy centre claims to have helped 800 children and adults from 39 countries, mostly from Europe and the Americas. There is a long waiting list. Friends and well-wishers raised more than £6,000 for the visit by Nikki Brice, who has brain damage after being starved of oxygen at birth. A fortnight after returning home to Weston-super-Mare, he is still improving, his mother Tabitha said yesterday. "Since we've been back, he has had one major temper tantrum. Before, he was having two or three a day. I'm only 4ft 9in and I don't know how much long I could have coped as Nikki is nearly as big as I am," she said.

"He now has a vocabulary of 24 words and it is getting bigger all the time. If you ask me what I think of the dolphin centre having to move, I think it is cruel. I intend to take Nikki back as soon as I have raised the money, but if we have to go to Mexico it will mean more flights, more expense and a much more difficult journey."

The Seaquarium denies that money is the motive in launching its new Water and Dolphin Encounter. "It's based on an educational experience, it's not entertainment," Marlene Oliver, the public relations manager, said. For about £80, members of the public get to see dolphins close up as they are fed and trained, and even rub noses with them. Until recently, a government permit was needed before the public was allowed to join the animals in the water.

Costing about £60,000 for an infant dolphin,the creatures need to generate vast amounts of income to pay their way. The real price may be paid by children such as Joseph Stevenson, 8, from London, who was back for his second visit last week. Two years ago in Miami, the autistic boy uttered his first words. When he returned home, his progress was so noticeable that a local pub raised £5,500 to send him back. Now he is wide-eyed and grinning as a young bottle-nosed dolphin named Ripley pulls him backward through the water. He is at ease despite being hypersensitive to sights and sounds.

Most of the two-week therapy is conducted on the dock, and the children are rewarded with time in the water with dolphins. Marine biologists agree that dolphins have the power to make people feel better just by their presence. Although he claims a 97 per cent improvement rate, Dr Nathanson reminds parents not to expect too much: "This is not a cure or a miracle. We are dealing with lifelong chronic conditions."



Nikki Brice with souvenir: he spoke his first word last month and is still improving, says his mother

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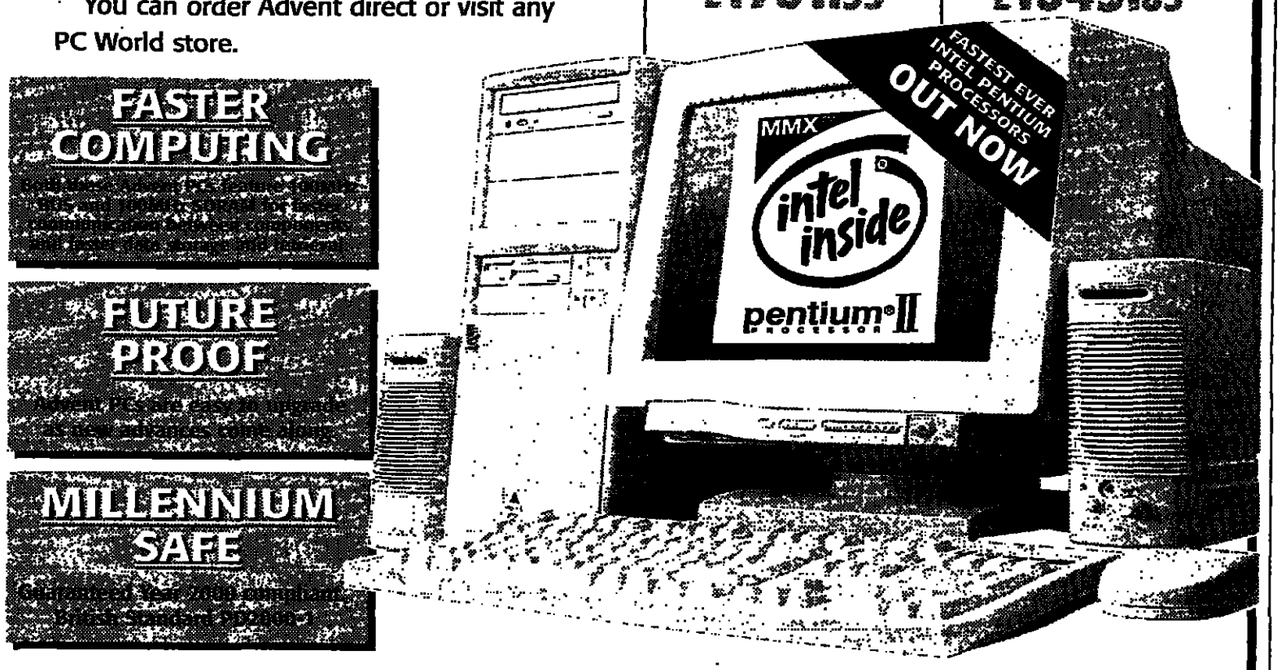
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NEWS IN BRIEF

50 illegal immigrants are shopped

Fifty-one Chinese and Sinhalese illegal immigrants smuggled from France into Britain by lorry and then dumped in Folkestone were being questioned by officials yesterday. Most of the immigrants were found before dawn wandering about in the car park of a Sainsbury's supermarket by staff, who called police.

Cable kills angler

An angler was killed when his 11 metre carbon-fibre rod hit an electric cable. Richard Connors, 46, of Ellesmere Port, was fishing with his 27-year-old nephew on a canal at Dutton Hollow, Cheshire. He died at the scene.

Hit and run

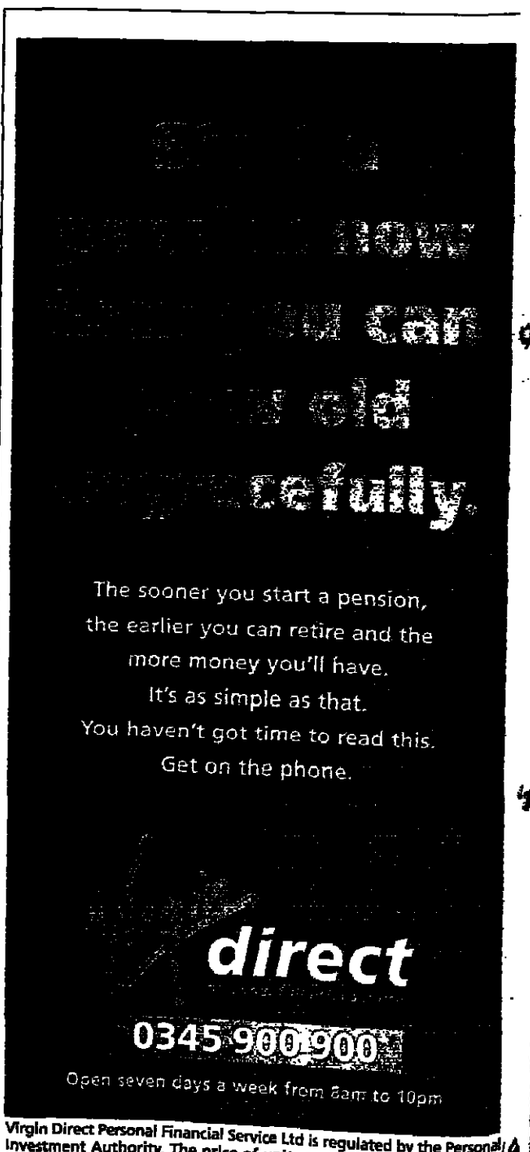
Police are looking for an elderly man who knocked over a woman in his motorised wheelchair. Linda Ashley, 36, suffered minor back and leg injuries after being hit as she walked on the pavement in Grimsby.

Marrying kind

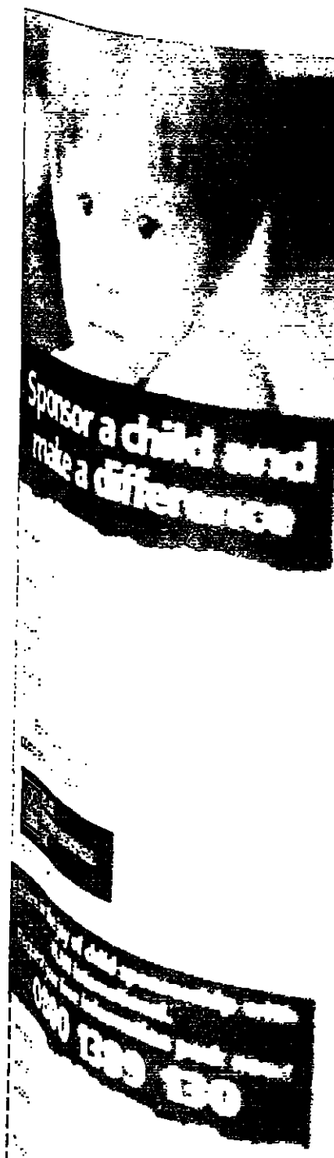
Jan Konecki has married for the third time — at the age of 99. He wed Kalinka Kuroski, 71, in a traditional Polish ceremony at the Church of Divine Mercy, Manchester. "I tend to go for younger models," he explained.

Art is saved

Six works of art were saved for the nation in tax deals announced by the Government, including a 1672 painting by Jan van der Heyden and an Armagnac illuminated manuscript about Joan of Arc.



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WPC paid with her life for dedication to duty

Michael Horsnell and **Stewart Tendler** on cost of frontline policing


ROBIN MAYES

Sidney Mackay with his wife, Patricia, yesterday. He asked: "Who else was doing their duty? No one else"

NINA MACKAY paid with her life for her commitment to front-line policing when her world collided with Magdi Elgizouli, a Sudanese immigrant.

The favourite saying of the dedicated young officer was "It's all wrong: it just isn't right" as she reflected on the wrongs she witnessed.

One of a family of officers, she had just finished a course in the use of a hand-held hydraulic "Enforcer" ram to smash down doors during raids on the homes of suspects. She was taught only the day before her death that the officer who uses it should then step aside to allow the shield team through.

WPC Mackay, 25, the daughter of retired Chief Superintendent Sidney Mackay, was wearing heavy body armour when she arrived at Elgizouli's flat in Stratford, East London, with eight male colleagues from 3 Area Territoral Support Group. No lightweight armour was available to women officers because it had been sent back for adjustments. But she found that the heavyweight version inhibited her ability to swing the ram, and so removed it. One senior investigator said: "The officers on the operation dealt with the plan to get in the flat exactly by the book. The heavyweight armour would have restricted a man and would have been even more restrictive for a woman. She took off the armour but she was not meant to go in. Most people would have done exactly the same as she did. The only person who knows what took her through the door is her."


Nina Mackay: died after being stabbed


Elgizouli: committed to a mental hospital

As she smashed the door, it *simultaneously* appears to have been opened and she was propelled down the narrow hallway into Elgizouli, who was armed with a knife. She was stabbed in the abdomen and died two hours later in hospital, the first policewoman to be killed on duty since WPC Yvonne Fletcher, shot outside the Libyan Embassy in London in 1984, 14 years ago yesterday. Elgizouli, 30, a paranoid schizophrenic, was sent to Rampton mental hospital by an Old Bailey judge yesterday.

Sidney Mackay, 54, said yesterday: "Her death was needless. She was only doing her duty." The former officer, who criticised the release of Elgizouli on bail by magistrates on another matter only days before his daughter's death, asked: "Who else was doing their duty? No one else as far as I can see. The whole thrust of my argument is that it is the police — not the social *services or the courts — who* have to pick up the pieces." After taking her A-levels at Davenant School in Loughton, Essex, she worked as a care assistant in an old people's home for 18 months. Mr Mackay had tried to disssuade her from becoming the third member of the family to join the police, but at 19 she went to the Metropolitan Police Training College in *Hendon, North London. In* her application for the Met, WPC Mackay wrote: "It would be a privilege to work for such an excellent service."

After a five-year posting to Charing Cross police station, where she served on the crime squad, she transferred to the TSG at Bow, East London, in November 1996.

OFFICERS STILL WAIT FOR ARMOUR

Police officers complain that Scotland Yard has still not issued enough sets of lightweight body armour. The Police Federation is urging Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner, to speed up the distribution of the 4.5 lb "Metvest", developed by the force and ordered at a cost of £3.5 million. Yesterday the Yard said that more than 20,000 vests had been issued. Another 2,500 have yet to be sent out after minor problems in manufacture and distribution.

Community care never delivered on its promises

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CARE in the community was an idea born of an unlikely mixture of compassion and meanness.

Launched in the belief it would simultaneously provide kinder treatment for the mentally ill and more money for the Treasury, the system has become discredited by a string of violent crimes committed by patients released into the community without adequate supervision.

One mental patient commits murder every fortnight, three commit suicide every week and thousands need acute hospital treatment after maiming themselves.

It is 13 years since Marjorie Wallace wrote a series of articles in *The Times* arguing that it was wrong to go on shutting hospital beds and releasing the mentally ill into the community without proper monitoring.

It was only in January that Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said he wanted to *reverse the policy and establish* purpose-built secure units. Paul Boateng, the Health Minister, is overseeing a mental healthcare review, and a Mental Incapacity Bill is now being prepared which will lead to the recall of some people living in unsupervised units.

It was Enoch Powell, as Minister for Health, who launched community care in 1961 after the development of psychotropic drugs in the 1950s made control of the mentally ill outside institutions feasible.

Since then, successive governmentshave pressed on with the policy of closing mental hospitals until the 1980s when Marjorie Wallace began her series in *The Times*. Her articles raised public consciousness and forced government to listen.

In 1986 she launched the charity Sane, which called for a halt to bed closures. By then 100,000 beds had been shut.

Centralised control was meant to be introduced by the NHS and Community Care Act in 1990, but this concentrated heavily on providing social services for the elderly, and the mentally ill were once more sidelined.

The Government has announced a freeze on the closure of the remaining 35 long-stay mental hospitals, but the good intentions have yet to be backed with any of the money needed to provide new secure mental units.



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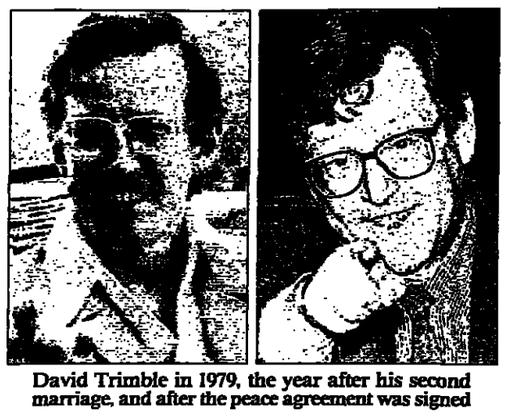
Make or break day for man of contrasts

Will this be as good as it gets for David Trimble, asks **Michael Gove**

ULSTER'S arguments can bewilder outsiders and the figure at the heart of the Province's politics is one of the most paradoxical of all. David Trimble is a reserved academic who first flexed his political muscles in the company of Ulster's *hard men*: the remarried leader of a party whose membership is solidly church-going: and a lawyer loyal to the Crown who stood with his constituents when they confronted the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Mr Trimble sprang to public prominence, and leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party, after his appearance in an Orange sash at the barricades of Drumcree. But he could easily have lived a fulfilled life away from the cameras, with only an academic gown draped over his shoulders, in the precincts of Queen's University, Belfast.

A boy from Protestant Bangor, who preferred academic law to the clash of the courtroom, Mr Trimble's politics spring from a desire to see his Province governed in quiet consistency with the rest of the United Kingdom. The 53-year-old MP for Upper Bann has none of the taste for the theatrical which marks other politicians: Ian Paisley's grandstanding leaves him cold and the sly soundbites of the Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams are anathema to a man who prefers plain-speaking and private negotiation.



David Trimble in 1979, the year after his second marriage, and after the peace agreement was signed

He was thrust into the limelight in July 1995 when the traditional Orange march from Drumcree Church, in his constituency, was halted by police after nationalist agitation. At a delicate stage in the peace process, his constituents' right to celebrate their heritage was, he thought, being undermined. There were angry scenes as Orangemen clashed with the police but Mr Trimble stood with his people until the march was allowed through *and celebrated afterwards*, arm-in-arm with Mr Paisley, in a rare display of emotion.

His stance of principled support for Unionist traditions allowed him, a few months later, to beat better-known colleagues for the leadership of his party. An alliance of hardliners anxious to see Unionism sold more vigorously and forward-thinkers keen to see it sold more intellectually placed their faith in the law lecturer turned street politician.

Now the same body that elected him could destroy him. The Ulster Unionist Council, which meets today, must decide if his display of vigour and intellect in negotiations has been enough.

Mr Trimble is not a natural glad-hander. One parliamentary colleague describes him as a loner whose faith in his own judgment inclines him to consult less than he should. Happiest at home with his wife Daphne and their four children, he is not an instinctive builder of cabals and some of those who worked for his leadership are now working to oppose his agreement.

Mr Trimble, a divorcé, met his wife while she was one of his students at Queen's and their marriage provides a refuge from the strains of politics. While the SDLP negotiator, Seamus Mallon, celebrated the Good Friday accord with "a Guinness, and then a whiskey, or two", the Trimbles went for a quiet meal at a fish restaurant.

One friend, the Irish journalist Ruth Dudley Edwards, describes him as "fun" and "charming", but his charm is more obvious in private. Another ally, David Burnside, a former British Airways PR chief, pays tribute to Mr Trimble's "grit" and ability to do what he considers right without requiring acclaim.

That grit now faces its toughest test. The hardliner of 1995 must now rely on the support of those party members who voted for more moderate colleagues then. Two of his defeated rivals, John Taylor and Ken Maginnis, back the agreement and they must deliver their supporters if Mr Trimble is to survive. He is also relying on reason. While his opponents today may be able to play more stirring Orange tunes, and find manifest faults in an unpalatable compromise, Mr Trimble can ask in all honesty, "What is the alternative?"

He will tell his party that rejection would only lead the Government to press ahead with what is worrisome in the agreement while marginalising Unionists for as long as Tony Blair is Prime Minister. Republicans would regard such Unionist rejectionism as a victory.

Mr Trimble can point to gains for Unionism, specifically the prospect of Unionist leaders taking hold of the levers of power in the Province, and the brake towards absorption into the Irish Republic. There have been losses for Unionism, too, not least the prospect of Unionist unity which beckoned when Mr Paisley and Mr Trimble celebrated together in 1995. Mr Trimble has preferred to put his trust, instead, in a relationship with Mr Blair.

This agreement, he has said, echoing the Hollywood hit film, is "as good as it gets". If Mr Trimble fails today, and has to resign, then Ulster Unionists must hope that will not become an epitaph for their lost leader.



The Trimbles with their son Richard during a holiday in Yugoslavia in 1983

CRISPIN RODWELL



Daphne Trimble, who met her husband while she was one of his students, looking through a family album yesterday at home in Lisburn, Co Antrim

Galling prospect at heart of Unionist dilemma

BY MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Orange Order in David Trimble's own constituency rejected the peace agreement yesterday. Denis Watson, Grandmaster of Co Armagh's 7,000-member Orange Lodge, urged Mr Trimble to reconsider his support for the deal or he would "divide and fragment Unionism" even further.

The agreement has split the Unionist movement and the Ulster Unionist Party like no other issue in recent years. Rival Unionist parties claim it will lead inexorably towards a united Ireland, but for many ordinary Unionists the problem is far more immediate and visceral. They simply cannot accept the prospect of IRA killers being released en masse, or of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness sitting in a Northern Ireland Cabinet.

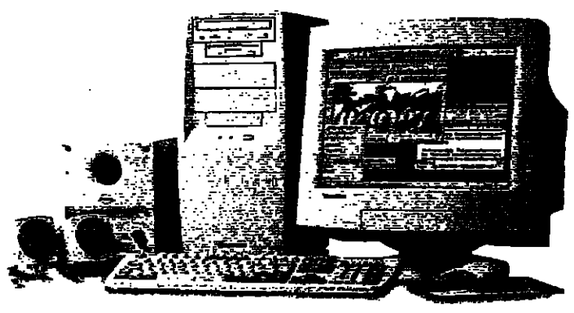
At the Northern Ireland Forum yesterday, there were furious exchanges as members of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party heckled and barracked Mr Trimble, accusing him of a "sell-out". Across Belfast, Robert McCartney's UK Unionist Party launched its campaign to defeat an agreement that it called "one of the biggest confidence tricks of all time". The DUP and UKUP account for about 40 per cent of Unionist voters.

Within his own party Mr Trimble won the support of the executive by 55 votes to 23 last Saturday, and should win today's vote of the 860-member council. But while he boasts of a "good solid base of support" the extent of the opposition is sobering.

Only three of his nine fellow UUP MPs support the agreement. Several members of his Stormont negotiating team have refused to endorse it. On Thursday, the executive committee of the Ulster Young Unionist Council and the Queen's University Unionist Association also rejected it.

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هكذا في الأصل

Antarctic unleashes a titanic iceberg

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

AN ICEBERG 25 miles long and three miles wide is floating in the Southern Ocean as an Antarctic ice shelf falls apart. The break-up was predicted by scientists at the British Antarctic Survey two months ago, but the speed of the change has taken experts by surprise. Some blame global warming.

The climate of the Antarctic peninsula has become 2.5C warmer since the 1940s, causing the ice shelves to start melting. In February, the British team predicted that the Larsen B shelf, measuring 7,500 square miles, was nearing its stability limit and could begin to break up.

Photographs taken from a polar-orbiting satellite operated by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have now confirmed that a large portion of the shelf has vanished. A spokeswoman for the British Antarctic Survey, which based its predictions on computer models, said: "The Antarctic peninsula is experiencing a regional warming, but that's not happening in the rest of the continent, and no-one understands why.

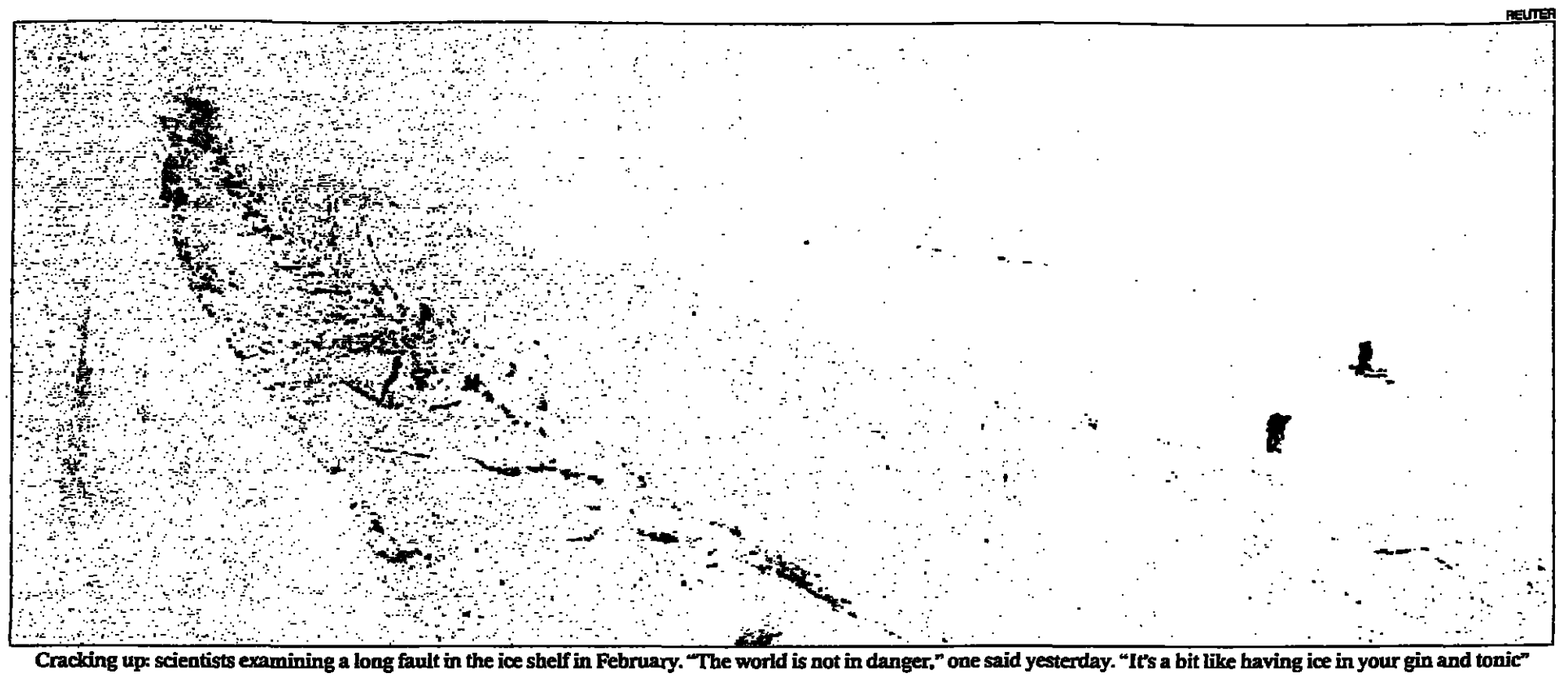
"It doesn't mean that we are immediately going to see sea levels rise. The world is not in any danger.

"Ice shelves are floating — it's a bit like having ice in your gin and tonic. What would have an effect is if the ice sheets on land melted." However, the floating ice shelves protect the ice sheets by pinning them back. Once the ice shelves go, so could the larger masses of ground ice. "There could be a danger if the ice shelves disappear to the extent where they are no longer pinning back the ice sheets," she said. "But no one is suggesting that that is going to happen."

Ted Scambos, from the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, who has analysed the satellite images, said: "This may be the beginning of the end for the Larsen shelf. The warming trend appears to be related to a reduction in sea ice. The question is, what is causing the reduction? At this point we do not have enough evidence to find a smoking gun."

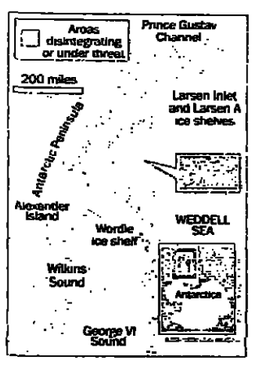
He said about two thirds of the ice shelf was now threatening to break off. The other third nestled in bays that are expected to protect it. Larsen B is bigger than all the previous ice that has been lost from the Antarctic ice shelves in the past 20 years. Early in 1995, the Larsen A shelf, measuring 48 miles by 23 miles, collapsed completely during a single storm after years of gradual shrinking. The speed of its break-up was unprecedented and followed several of the region's warmest summers on record.

Bill Budd, Professor of Meteorology at Australia's Antarctic Co-operative Research Centre, is convinced the ice shelf collapse is the result of global warming. He predicts significant degradation beginning in the next century and the near-total loss of the ice shelves within 500 years. He said the ice-shelf collapse was consistent with "what we see from the effects of increased greenhouse gases, which cause warming".



REUTER

Cracking up: scientists examining a long fault in the ice shelf in February. "The world is not in danger," one said yesterday. "It's a bit like having ice in your gin and tonic"



Warm response to new self-chill can

By Our Environment Correspondent

A SELF-CHILLING can, reviled by environmentalists as a danger to the planet, has gained green credentials and is to go into production later this year.

The can, which can chill a fizzy drink in two minutes, was originally designed to use HFC 134a, a gas whose global warming effect was 3,400 times greater than carbon dioxide.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said he would seek to ban it in Europe. But the new version, which uses carbon dioxide collected from waste industrial processes, was yesterday applauded by the Government and has won approval from the Environmental Protection Agency in America.

Before going into use around the world, the Chill Can will go into orbit on the Space Shuttle. John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, will be among the crew of the October mission, who will use the Chill Can for food rather than drink.

The can has been developed by the Joseph Company of California with BOC in Britain. Mitchell Joseph, of the American company, said yesterday that Senator Glenn had told him he was excited about testing the can — which will enable him to eat ice cream in space.

The device uses carbon dioxide, stored at low pressure, and simple heat exchangers which remove heat from the drink or food inside when the gas is released. Steve Waldron, of BOC, said that it was more environmentally friendly than vending machines, which used a lot of energy to keep drinks cool.

A trillion cans of drink are sold each year worldwide. The Chill Can is expected to be produced at a plant in Britain and a plant in the US.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, said that officials had studied research on the new can's environmental impact and the use of carbon dioxide as a coolant gas was "a big improvement".

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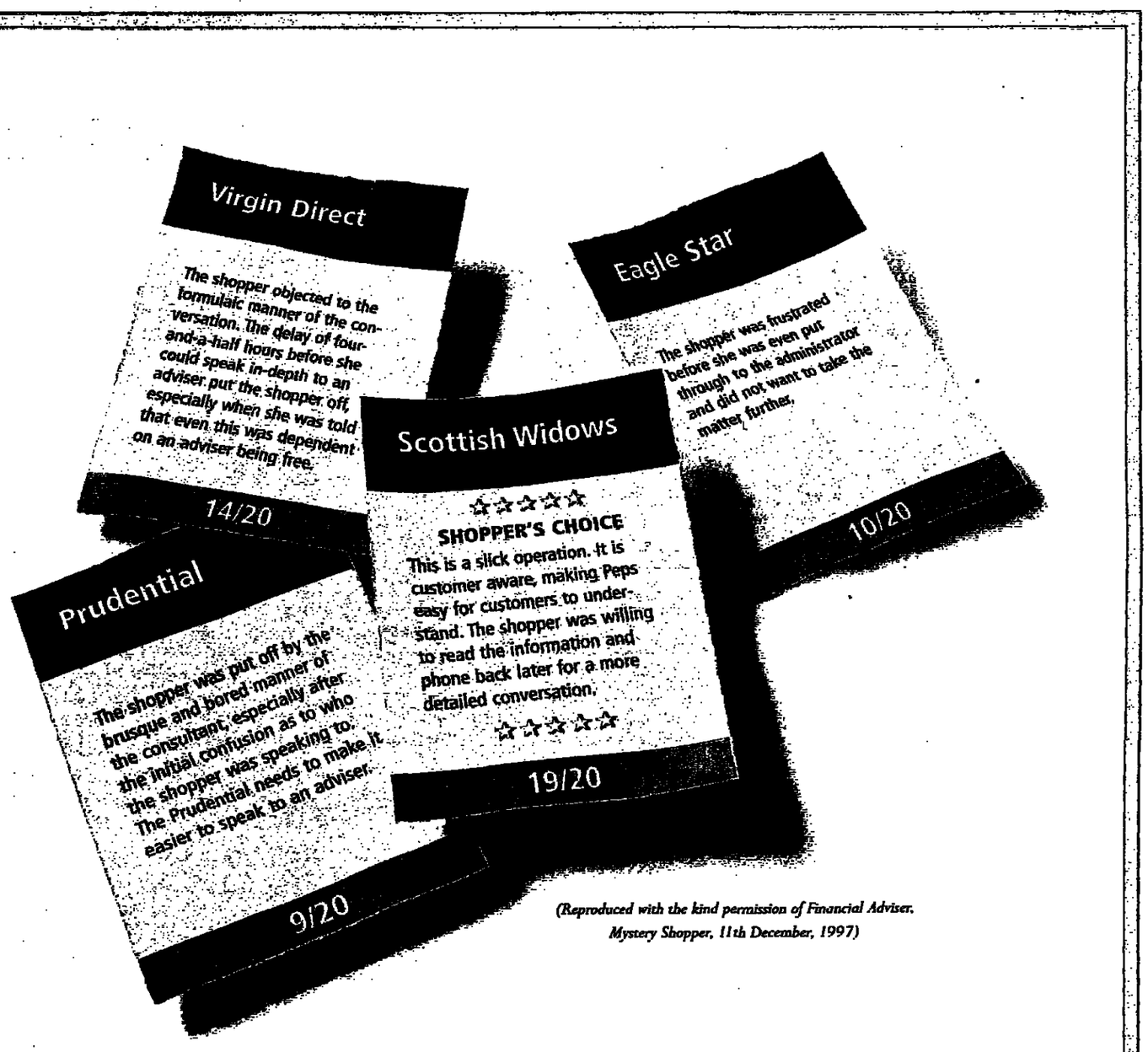


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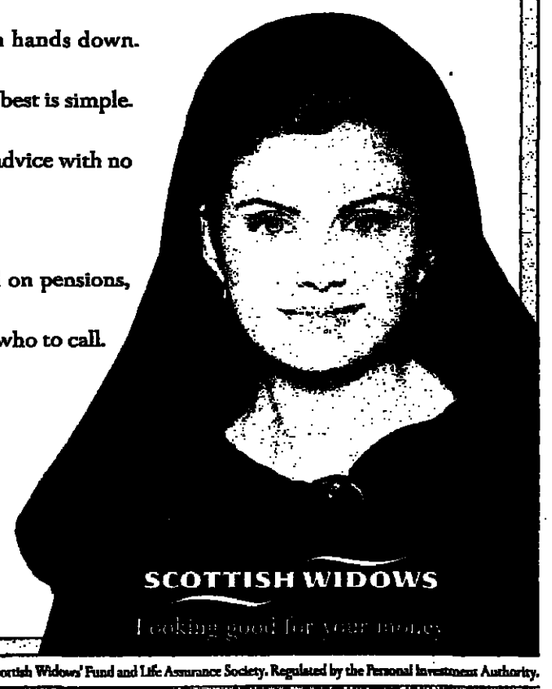
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Teachers blame the parents for young tearaways

David Charter hears call for a wallop at home to back classroom discipline and check problems

TEACHERS mourned the disappearance of the parental "wallop" yesterday as they blamed the modern family for creating a generation of classroom tearaways. Parents were criticised for treating offspring like fashion accessories and refusing to accept they could do anything wrong.

Instead of punishing their children for getting into trouble at school, some parents were now more likely to wallop the teacher.

The criticism came at the annual conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers in Scarborough. On Thursday, David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, had promised that he would get as "tough as nails" with bad parents. Yesterday teachers lined up at the microphone to condemn parents who failed to take responsibility for raising children properly.

Jacqueline Simpson, from Leeds, asked: "What has happened to the culture of an extra wallop at home if you had done something wrong at school, because he must have done something wrong if the teacher said so, whatever the child says?

"If parents fail to take responsibilty for their offspring, they should be made to or penalised in a way that hurts. We want the best for children, and everything we say or do about them is for their benefit." Dave Battye, an executive member from Sheffield, said: "Parents have the idea that children are a fashion accessory. They have a house and a car and a few kids to go with them. If someone burgles your house, they call the police. If someone does anything to their kids, woe betide them.

"Parents give their children everything they want and don't tell them off. Parenting is not saying, 'You can have everything you want and everything you do will be right'. Good parents take responsibility for their children and in that they put on restraints and restrictions."

Sue Rogers, also from Sheffield, told how a colleague from Barnsley was hit by a parent who stormed into the classroom after his child was told off: "The tragedy is that these people believe they are supporting children by doing these things. They come to the classroom and hit members of staff who tell their child off, telling the teacher that their child doesn't lie or hit other pupils, and won't believe what you tell them. And the tragedy is, they believe they are helping their children by doing this.

"They don't realise that they have to learn to say no. These parents are not bringing children up but dragging them down to the lowest levels of society. Bringing children up means sometimes saying no, not being indulgent."

She reminded the conference that a ten-year-old boy who terrorised a primary school in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, had been defended by his aunt for simply "behaving like a lad".

Mrs Rogers added: "What is wrong with the idea that boys should sit quietly and read? No wonder boys are falling behind in results."

☐ Union members said that incompetent teachers should be given at least two terms in the classroom to prove their worth. They voted against their leaders who signed a "fast-track" sacking agreement with employers last year, meaning teachers could be fired four weeks after formally being told to improve. Eamonn O'Kane, the deputy general secretary, said the alternative had been to agree to government demands for instant dismissal.

Much ado as Bard's First Folio goes on display

BY ALAN HAMILTON

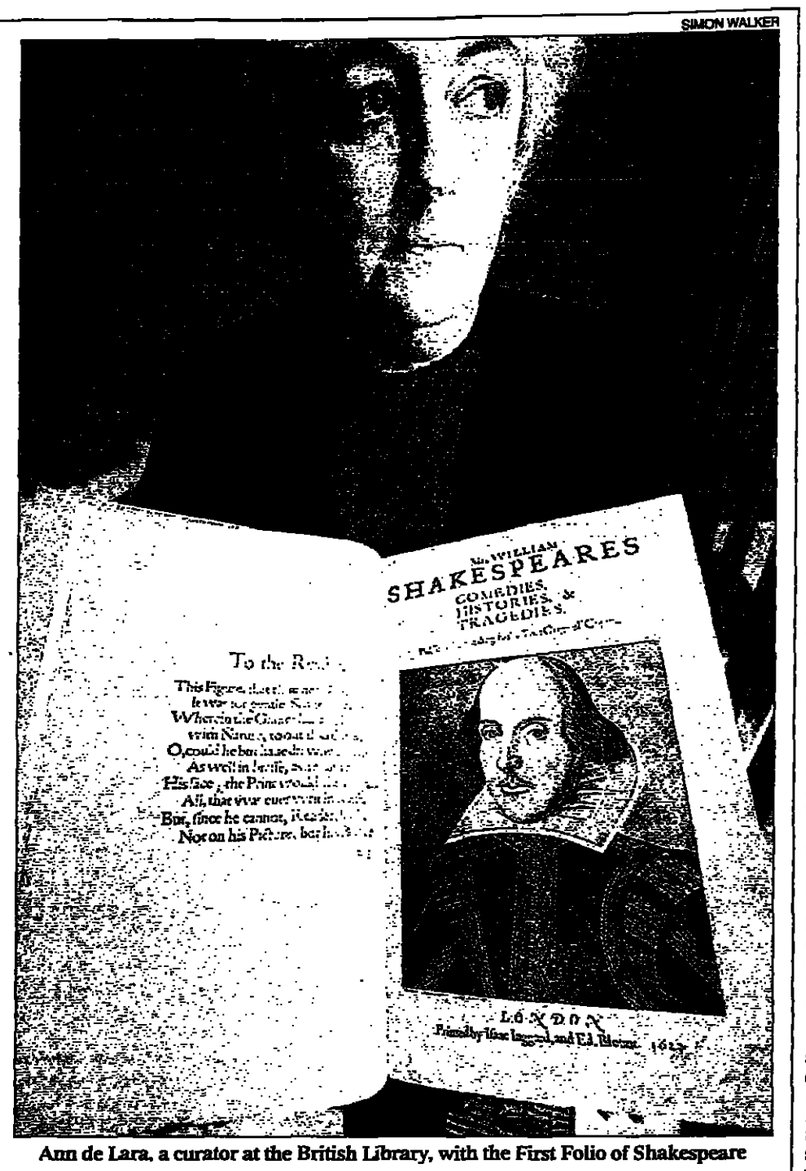
THE bald pate and trim moustache are universally familiar; the book itself one of the crown jewels of the language. On Tuesday the First Folio edition of *Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories and Tragedies* goes on display at the British Library's new home.

Published in 1623, seven years after the playwright's death, the First Folio contains 36 plays. It is regarded by scholars as a definitive text and more reliable than the previous quartos.

Once owned by the Whig Prime Minister William Grenville, the First Folio has been in the British Library's possession since 1846, on display at its former premises in the British Museum. Grenville is said to have acquired it in its original form; to the annoyance of modern scholars, he had it rebound.

Shakespeare will share his new home in the British Library galleries at St Pancras with other pearls of English, including Magna Carta, the Gutenberg Bible, and the Lindisfarne Gospels. From Tuesday, the Library galleries will be open free seven days a week.

SIMON WALKER



Ann de Lara, a curator at the British Library, with the First Folio of Shakespeare

Charity 'scaring' pupils with its divorce leaflets

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A CHARITY was accused yesterday of spreading fear and confusion after teachers distributed leaflets to children as young as 5 to make them more aware of the trauma of divorce and separation.

More than 9,000 leaflets, designed to help children "come to terms" with their parents' divorce, are being handed out to primary and secondary school pupils in Co Durham. The initiative, carried out by the Durham Family Mediation unit for the charity NCH Action for Children, follows concern expressed by teachers that pupils are the victims of the high rate of marital breakdowns.

But critics claim that the project has spread unnecessary fear because they are being distributed to all children in the classroom. They said that children in stable homes may come to believe it is inevitable that their parents will break up.

The Durham Family Mediation unit, which set up the campaign with a £7,000 grant from a government scheme to release cash for urban renewal, insists that the project is sensitive and meets a growing need. Eileen Dunn, project manager, said the leaflets were targeted to particular age groups, were designed to help parents work with their children and were vital in a society where one in four marriages failed. Leaflets have already been distributed in six secondary schools and 14 primary schools. More will be handed out after the Easter holidays.

The leaflet says: "Almost a quarter of children under the age of 16 will experience parental separation or divorce. It is difficult for all concerned and each child's reaction to these changes will vary depending on individual circumstances."

Denise Robertson, president of the National Council for the Divorced and Separated, said that "blanket coverage" of such a message was counter-productive. She said: "Leafleting children about marriage break-up as though they were telling them they will be getting a new wheelie-bin is both scarey and repulsive. A five-year-old is going to think, 'They are warning me that mum and dad are going to split.'"

Libby Calton, spokeswoman for NCH Action for Children, said: "We make it very clear that it is not something to be frightened of and does not happen to everyone."

Three-day week for the Welsh assembly

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IT is the cushiest job in politics. Members of the Welsh assembly will meet from 9am to 5pm three days a week and will not sit in school holidays. In a deliberate break with Westminster, which takes pride in antisocial hours, the new assembly will pioneer a new style of "family friendly" politics.

The new working patterns are intended to encourage more women to put themselves forward for election and prevent strains on marriages and families.

Unlike the House of Commons, there will be no late-night sittings in the Cardiff assembly when it opens next year, and no work on Mondays or Fridays — to allow the 60 members time for other interests.

John Elfed Jones, chairman of the advisory group which has drawn up proposals for the assembly's working practices, said: "The hours of work at Westminster do not allow for efficient and effective work processes. They cause great family problems, whereas our proposals will allow members to allow adequate time for their family and constituents. They will be able to balance their personal and political lives."

The recommendations are set out in a consultation paper drawn up by the advisory group, apppointed by the Welsh Secretary Ron Davies. The Welsh public will have their chance to discuss the proposals over the next six weeks. Helen Jones, an advisory group member, said: "Assembly members will not be part-timers. When they are not attending the assembly, they will be busy in their constituencies and at regional meetings.

The final decision on the rules and structures of the assembly will rest with the Welsh Secretary. Members' salaries and allowances have still to be fixed.



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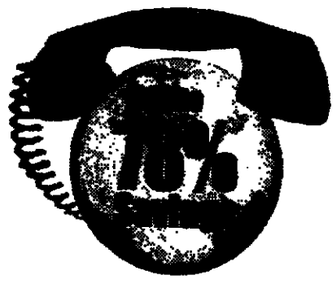
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Leaner times in new-look fat city

DAVID RAE MORRIS / IMPACT VISUALS





A shrimp Po-Boy with the trimmings, just part of a good day's eating for devotees of the culinary delights of New Orleans; and Frank Minyard, the city coroner, enjoying a different kind of blow-out

New Orleans folk enjoy their food but, as **Ian Brodie** discovers, a home-grown new diet book is selling big

NEW ORLEANS has been declared America's fattest city, but the citizens are refusing to let it spoil their passion for food. Even dieters are pinning their hopes on one that lets them carry on eating much as before — and the diet is so good they have managed to sell it to chic, lean New York.

The Louisiana city is the place where people meet for breakfast to discuss what they will have for lunch. Breakfast itself can be a calorific challenge, thanks to a local favourite called beignets — lumps of fried sugary dough.

The Creole and Cajun foods are a spicy combination of Caribbean, African, Spanish and French cuisines. Gravies are thick and full of fat. Sauces are creamy. Crawfish, crabs and shrimp are high in cholesterol . . . and fried.

Breakfast at Brennan's, a New Orleans tradition, can last three hours and include brandy milk punch, poached eggs on fried trout, veal in Creole sauce and a cholesterol rush known as bananas Foster with rum, melted butter, brown sugar and scoops of vanilla ice-cream.

The city's best-known chef, Paul Prudhomme, weighs 21st. Having lost 14st, he has now given up dieting. He works with food seven days a week at his restaurant, K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen, but cannot eat as he once did. With damaged knees, he has difficulty walking and now moves around on a three-wheel electric scooter.

The sandwich of choice in New Orleans is a "Po-Boy", a jumbo hunk of French bread stuffed with fried food, even



Cooking a crawfish feast

fried potatoes, and mayonnaise. Antoine's, one of the best of many restaurants, offers soufflé potatoes, fried at two temperatures.

Then there is the drinking. Bars can stay open 24 hours a day. Alcohol is sold on street corners in the French Quarter. Carrying drinks in glasses on the street is illegal because people were falling down on broken glass. But plastic cups are all right. Drive-ins on the edge of town sell 32-ounce daiquiris with rum or vodka. Customers are supposed to keep a plastic lid on them but nobody counts on it.

New Orleans pays a price for being the eatingest, drinkingest city in the United States. According to government statistics, 38 per cent of the population are obese, meaning more than 20 per cent above their ideal weight — the most for any American city. Life expectancy for men is 64, eight years below the national average.

Other factors contribute to the figures, including poverty, but living it up is a leading ingredient. Heart disease is twice the national rate. "Our lifestyle is to let the good times roll," says Frank Minyard, the city's coroner, who frequently plays his jazz trumpet at funerals. "We pack 100 years of living into our 64 years."

He describes New Orleans, known as the Big Easy, as a laid-back Caribbean city, the antithesis of California.

"There are gyms and people run, but nobody is obsessed about it. A lot of them run so they can eat." In the Mardi Gras marathon, competitors run from one beer-stand to the next.

In keeping with the easy-going style, a popular diet created in New Orleans does not change the way people eat too dramatically. They can still wander down Bourbon Street to enjoy shellfish, cream, spices and trimmed red meat. What they must skip are potatoes, white bread, white rice and all refined sugar. It is a high-protein diet that avoids sugar and other carbohydrates that raise insulin levels and cause the body to store excess sugar as fat. Those on the diet swear by it, while still enjoying lamb chops, cheese, eggs, wine, even peanut butter.



Paul Prudhomme, a chef, enjoyed the special diet

All is explained in *Sugar Busters!*, a book written and published by three New Orleans physicians and an oil executive, Leighton Steward. Mr Steward said: "We certainly don't eat the right things down here, but on this diet you can still enjoy 95 per cent of what you like and not gain weight."

The book has sold 200,000 copies, phenomenal for a self-published regional book, and has now been picked up by a New York publisher for national distribution. Everyone in New Orleans knows someone on the diet.

Restaurants display *Sugar Busters! signs to show they* follow the book's instructions. The authors say that they have seen hundreds of people lose weight and improve their health. They are hoping to arrange a scientific study.

Mr Steward's involvement began when he had dinner with a friend who ate fried mushrooms and six lamb chops with a bottle of red wine and boasted that it was part of a diet on which he had lost three-and-a-half stone. Impressed, Mr Steward tried, lost a stone-and-a-half in seven weeks and decided to write the book.

Mary Landrieu, a US senator from New Orleans, has lost a stone. She says she will go on the road as a promoter for *Sugar Busters!* if she ever loses her seat.

A SUGAR BUSTERS! RECIPE FROM THE BIG EASY

Emeril restaurant's pan-roasted filet mignon stuffed with blue cheese with warm haricots verts and bacon salad (for four): Ingredients: ½lb chopped bacon, cup of julienned yellow onions, teaspoon chopped garlic, half cup walnuts, 1lb green beans, four 8oz filets mignons, cup crumbled blue cheese, 2 tablespoons olive oil, tblspn chopped parsley.
Method: Preheat oven to 400F (190C). In hot sauté pan render bacon until crispy, stir occasionally for 8 mins. Stir in onions, garlic, walnuts. Sauté 3 mins, add green beans, salt and pepper, sauté 2 mins. Reduce heat to keep salad warm. Make 2in slit on side of each filet to form pocket to be stuffed with two tblspns cheese. Season filets with salt, cracked pepper. Heat olive oil, sear filets for 2 mins each side. Put pan in oven, roast filets for 7 mins, medium rare. To serve, spoon salad onto plates, put filets on salad, add parsley.

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Whitewater woman faces jury ordeal

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

SUSAN McDOUGAL, the Clintons' jailed Whitewater partner, has been ordered to appear before a federal grand jury next week as prosecutors again focus on the President's alleged involvement in an illegal loan when he was Governor of Arkansas.

McDougal, who served 18 months in prison for contempt, is scheduled to face the grand jury in Little Rock, Arkansas, for a hearing on Thursday. She has now started a two-year term on fraud convictions in the first Whitewater trial and is awaiting trial on embezzlement charges in Los Angeles involving her role as an assistant to the family of Zubin Mehta, the conductor.

In what could be the prelude to new charges of contempt and obstruction of justice, prosecutors from the office of Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, will try to compel her testimony about a $300,000 (£178,000) loan that David Hale, an Arkansas banker, has alleged Mr Clinton pressed him to solicit on behalf of McDougal.



McDougal: still defiant

In January, the prosecutors asked her to testify away from the jury and on videotape, but told her she risked further prosecution on rejection of what they described as an "extraordinary offer".

White House lawyers have said that Mr Starr could not investigate the payment claims because they might jeopardise the credibility of a prize witness. By calling McDougal from her cell in Los Angeles Mr Starr, however, is making a public effort not merely to corroborate Mr Hale's evidence but also to lessen his importance to the inquiry.

It seems unlikely that McDougal will bend to the will of a grand jury whose term is to expire next month. Mark Geragos, her lawyer, said last night he expected Mr Starr to indict her for criminal contempt.

PATRICK DE NORMONT / REUTERS

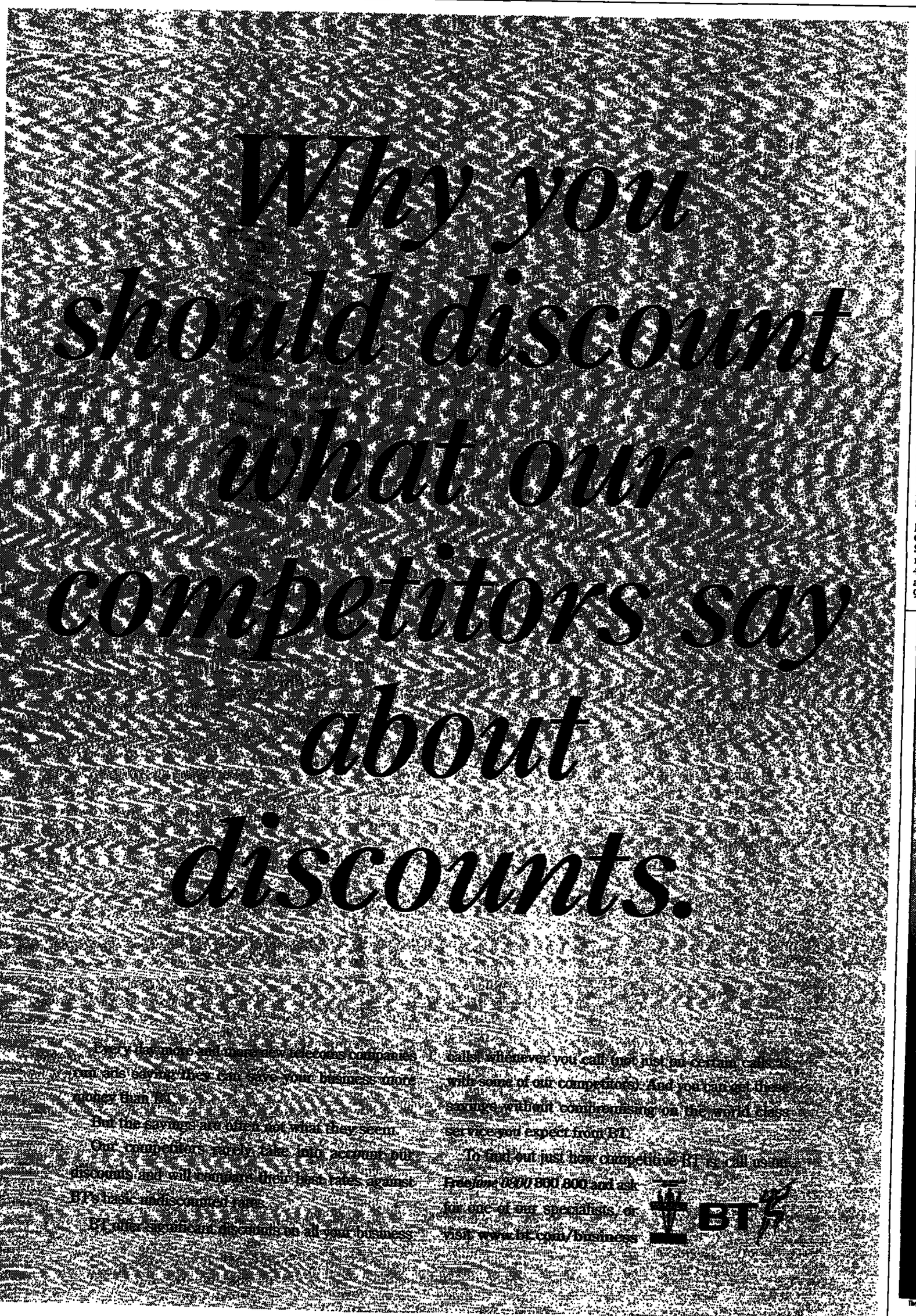


Mea Son, widow of Pol Pot, comforts their daughter Sith, 14, while speaking yesterday about the former Cambodian dictator's last hours

Pol Pot's widow pays tribute to 'good father'

POL POT, the former leader of the Khmer Rouge, was yesterday confirmed dead by the Thai military, which inspected the body and said it had not found evidence of foul play (James Pringle writes). No post-mortem examination was carried out, however, and his cremation, planned to take place today just inside Cambodia, will eliminate any sign that the death of the murderous Cambodian dictator was not the result of natural causes.

Mea Son, his second wife, yesterday told of the last hours before his death from a suspected heart attack and described him as a good husband and father. Pol Pot, 73, ate a simple last meal of rice in his bed in a jungle shack, Mea Son, 40, said. "When I went to see him again at around 11pm to put a mosquito net around him in bed, I found him dead." Her 14-year-old daughter by Pol Pot, Sith, was with her yesterday. Meanwhile, moves are continuing to bring other Khmer Rouge leaders to justice, led by the United States and Australia. But the possibility that the surviving leaders of the faction will ever see the inside of a courtroom is remote, analysts said.





Schröder: hailed as an election winner

Schröder crowned as candidate

Frankfurt: Germany's Social Democrats crowned their general election challenger, Gerhard Schröder, last night at a special congress in Leipzig which had as much pomp and glitz as an American primary (Deborah Colleutt writes).

The ceremony was designed to demonstrate the differences between the charismatic Herr Schröder and his ageing opponent, Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, in the run-up to the elections in September.

Nearly 500 delegates applauded at the end of almost every sentence of Herr Schröder's fiery speech. Running unopposed, he received 479 of the 513 valid votes cast at the congress, winning him 93.4 per cent of the vote.

Yeltsin's choice loses second vote in Duma

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE Russian State Duma continued its defiance of President Yeltsin yesterday by rejecting Sergei Kiriyenko, his nominee for Prime Minister, for a second time.

The President, apparently unruffled by the vote, renominated Mr Kiriyenko, before setting off on a two-day trip to Japan for bilateral talks with Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister.

Mr Kiriyenko also appeared unperturbed by the decision. The deputies, aware that the outcome of the second vote was not binding, had no fear of losing their seats. If, however, the vote goes the same way next week, Mr Yeltsin will dissolve the Duma, appoint his Prime Minister and call new parliamentary elections in six months' time.

But few believe it will come to that. Last week Gennadi Seleznyov, the Communist Speaker, called on the Duma to back Mr Kiriyenko, the 35-year-old former Energy Minister, rather than face dissolution. The likelihood is that the Communists, who with 133 seats form the largest faction in the 450-seat Duma, and their allies will follow Mr Seleznyov's advice.



هكذا من الاصل

Churchill's granddaughter cashes in on portraits of the legend who inspired her

Chip off old block carves art career

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



New Yorkers got a rare chance this week to snap up some genuine Churchill family portraits. The wartime leader's granddaughter, Edwina Sandys, an artist who has been living in New York for the last two decades, threw open her spacious SoHo studio to the public to unload years-worth of accumulated lithographs — including two of Sir Winston. *Chartwell* shows Sir Winston painting at his country estate, and *Romeo Revisited* catches him looking longingly at a box of his favourite Romeo y Julieta cigars.

As soon as word of the sale got out, Ms Sandys started receiving calls from Churchill aficionados. As a result of the interest, she printed 850 editions of *Chartwell* and 450 of *Romeo Revisited*, and is selling the lithographs for just $200 (£120) apiece.

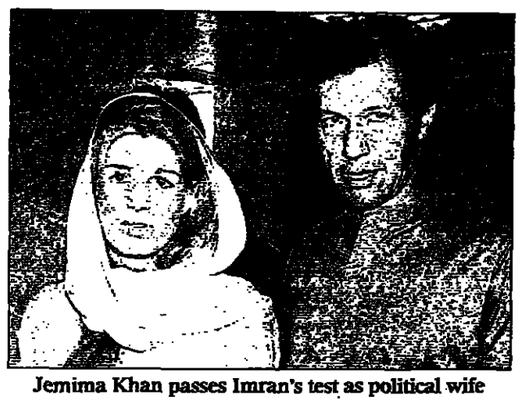
The daughter of the late Tory Cabinet minister, Duncan Sandys, and Churchill's daughter Diana, Ms Sandys took up painting seriously after her grandfather's death.

Ms Sandys, 59, normally works in marble on a more monumental scale. In 1990, she built a piece called *Breakthrough* from a ten-yard section of the Berlin Wall for the college in Fulton, Missouri, where Sir Winston delivered his famous 1946 Iron Curtain speech. She has large pieces at UN headquarters in Geneva, Vienna and New York. In co-operation with other artists around the world, she is presently preparing a huge project for 2000 called the "Millennium Circle" which will comprise Stonehenge-like stone circles on each continent. (The European Millennium Circle is to be built in Ireland). Although she works in different media, she says he had a huge impact on her. "I was influenced to succeed by my grandfather, and I have the same love of bright colours. He was the first artist I knew and his art was the first art I ever saw. Having him as a grandfather and seeing him paint, I learnt to draw, but I never thought I would be as good as him."

JUSTIN SUTCLIFFE



Edwina Sandys in SoHo. "Having him as a grandfather and seeing him paint, I learnt to draw, but I never thought I would be as good as him"



Jemima Khan passes Imran's test as political wife

I ran into cricketer-cum-politician Imran Khan when he stopped over in New York, and he was bubbling with praise for his British wife, Jemima, née Goldsmith. She had made effective speeches in Urdu and, comparing her to Italian-born Sonia Gandhi in India, said he hoped she would one day be "more popular than Sonia".

A well-manicured man in his thirties has held up 17 nail salons around the city in the past three months, apparently because there are usually no other men around. Now the finest of the New York Police Department are hot on his trail thanks to genetic evidence that he left at the scenes of his crimes: his discarded nail clippings.

Sex museum appeals for carnal knowledge

NEW York was until recently the Sodom and Gomorrah of the modern world. With the Mayor cracking down on peepshows and adult video shops, however, sex is being forced into the museum.

Alison Maddex, artist girlfriend of neo-feminist Camille Paglia, is to open the city's first Museum of Sex. Plans call for a "world-class cultural institution" involving "distinguished scientists, sex historians, doctors, psychologists, artists, curators and members of the sex industry". Letters have gone out to such sex-world stars as the stand-up comic Sandra Bernhard and Norma Jean Almódovar, the former Los Angeles cop who became a prostitute. "Sex is life," Ms Maddex says. "We need a sacred place to study this powerful force."

Natural partners find lost dancer

ARTHUR BELL'S siblings are celebrating the Easter resurrection of their long-lost brother, the pioneering black ballet dancer found homeless and disoriented in Brooklyn by passing ambulancemen.

Mr Bell's brother in New York and five sisters in Florida learnt of his whereabouts when a preacher read about his plight in a Florida newspaper on Easter Sunday. The family had been searching for Mr Bell for decades since he disappeared up north on the day he left high school to become a dancer, against his father's wishes. Once chosen by Sir Frederick Ashton as the first black to dance with the New York City Ballet in a 1950 performance of *Illuminations* by Benjamin Britten, Mr Bell ended up penniless in a New York nursing home. But he is now exultant: "It's a mind-blower," Mr Bell declared. "I'm not alone any more."

Natasha Richardson is a good bet to scoop a Tony Award for her performance as Sally Bowles in Cabaret *after a ruling that the former nightclub where the show is playing — renamed the Kit Kat Klub — qualifies as a Broadway theatre. Her British co-star, Alan Cumming, is a strong contender for his role as the maître d'.*

Waif with a dream



A CHARISMATIC nine-year-old preacher with a voice like Martin Luther King, right, is causing a sensation at New York's black churches. Chris Durosinmi, a waif from Brooklyn, began public speaking at the age of five when he delivered a typically rousing address at his nursery school graduation day. He is now inundated with requests to do his junior version of the eloquent 1960s civil rights leader. Like King, Chris has a dream — he wants to become President — but he has got to finish his homework first.

The lusty President Clinton will soon receive a piece of Naomi Campbell's underwear. The British supermodel promised to donate a bra to a New York radio station's "Bras Across the Hudson" campaign to promote breast cancer awareness. The bras will be sent to the White House. Naomi clearly felt she had to get something off her chest. Perhaps Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, should be told.

This from the book, Big Hair: *"Only one in 20 adult women is naturally blonde. Four out of ten women add blondeness. We are obsessed with blondeness, declaring it the 'essentially female colour'."*

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The vibrancy of the jazz scene in Paris, where American stars such as the Duke Ellington Orchestra, right, transformed the Left Bank after the war, has fallen victim to conservatism and bureaucracy in the 1990s

French gift for red tape gives Left Bank jazz lovers the blues

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

JAZZ on Paris's Left Bank, once among the most vibrant scenes in the world, has fallen victim to French bureaucracy, according to jazz lovers.

Issuing a cry of alarm at what they described as the modern musical poverty of St Germain des Prés, they condemned flourishing red tape as the enemy of creativity.

In a quartier once haunted by the likes of Duke Ellington and Sidney Bechet, two jazz cafés have closed recently, and those that remain are stuck in a time-warp, according to close observers of the Parisian jazz scene. "For jazz, St Germain des Prés is almost finished," said Franck Médioni, radio producer of a jazz programme.

High taxes, which have increased overheads for cafés and cut the spending power of their clientèle, are largely to blame, jazz club owners say. But the French state's love of paperwork has also contributed. *Viviane Sicnasi, a* former organiser of the celebrated Nice Jazz Festival, said: "If you want to bring an American artist over to France, it is *incredibly expensive and difficult.*"

She said the authorities would not allow a single concert before a work permit had been issued. To obtain a permit, musicians must supply a French translation of their contracts, salaries and expenses, including the price of their hotel rooms and meals in France.

The legal minimum fee for a jazz *musician in France is about Fr2,000* (£200) per performance, and employer contributions add another Fr1,000 to that figure, Mme Sicnasi said. Promoters no longer wanted artists who were not already well known, "and even then you are not sure of selling all the seats".

The upshot has been the closure of two former Left Bank jazz bastions, the *Tabou and the Montana, and the* growing conservatism of others.

Yesterday *Le Figaro* said: "Ten years ago, Paris was a capital of jazz. Now Parisian jazz is struggling. French musicians are in difficulty and the Americans prefer to go elsewhere."

Mandela loses case for rugby racism inquiry

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE Government of Nelson Mandela's was dealt a body blow to its executive powers yesterday afte South Africa's white-run rugby establishment won its High Court action.

The rugby authority had challenged the President's decision to establish a commission of inquiry into mismanagement and allegations of racism in the administration of the sport.

The ruling, which stunned most South Africans, is certain to polarise an already ugly debate over the allegations against the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu). Mr Mandela's legal team vowed to appeal against the decision of Judge William de Villiers, which could set a precedent preventing the head of state from launching inquiries into any matter beyond his administration.

In the short term, it was clear that the ruling from the judge, who campaigned against the admission of black lawyers to the Pretoria Bar Association during the apart*heid era, would damage rugby* and undermine support among black fans.

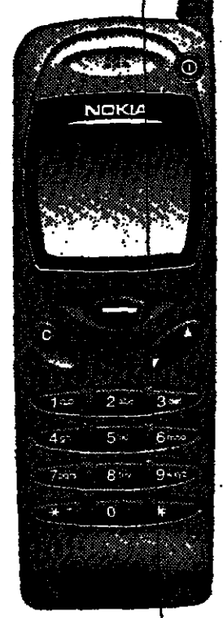
Judge de Villier gave no reasons for his verdict, which was delivered in 30 seconds, and ordered the Government to pay Sarfu's costs. Louis Luyt, a former stalwart of apartheid administrations *and now Sarfu president,* brought the case against the setting-up of the commission, arguing that it violated his constitutional rights.

Mr Mandela's legal adviser, Fink Haysom, described the *order as no surprise.* "We will almost definitely appeal. We hope the judge will be as assiduous in furnishing reasons as he was in giving his *ruling,*" he said.

Last night, reactions to the *ruling were sharply divided* along racial lines. The right-wing Freedom Front and the National Party, which rely on white support, welcomed the judge's ruling as a victory for the independence of the judiciary. The *Democratic Party* noted the constitutional implications of the decision but issued a warning that "if Sarfu fails to use this opportunity to make the future safe for rugby, it must expect to be faced with an unforgiving public".

Leading article, page 23

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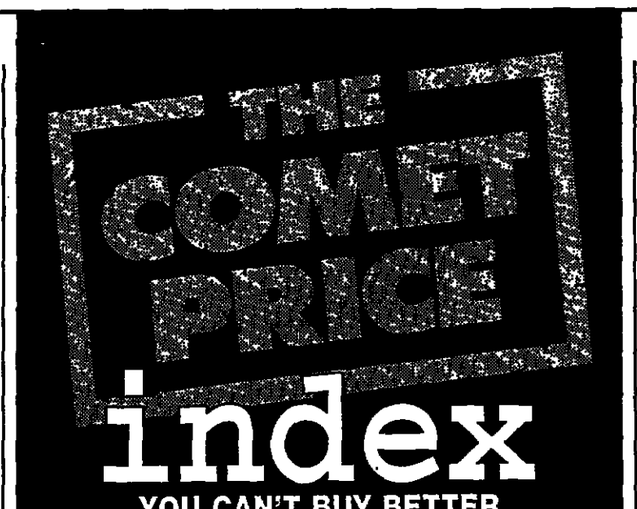
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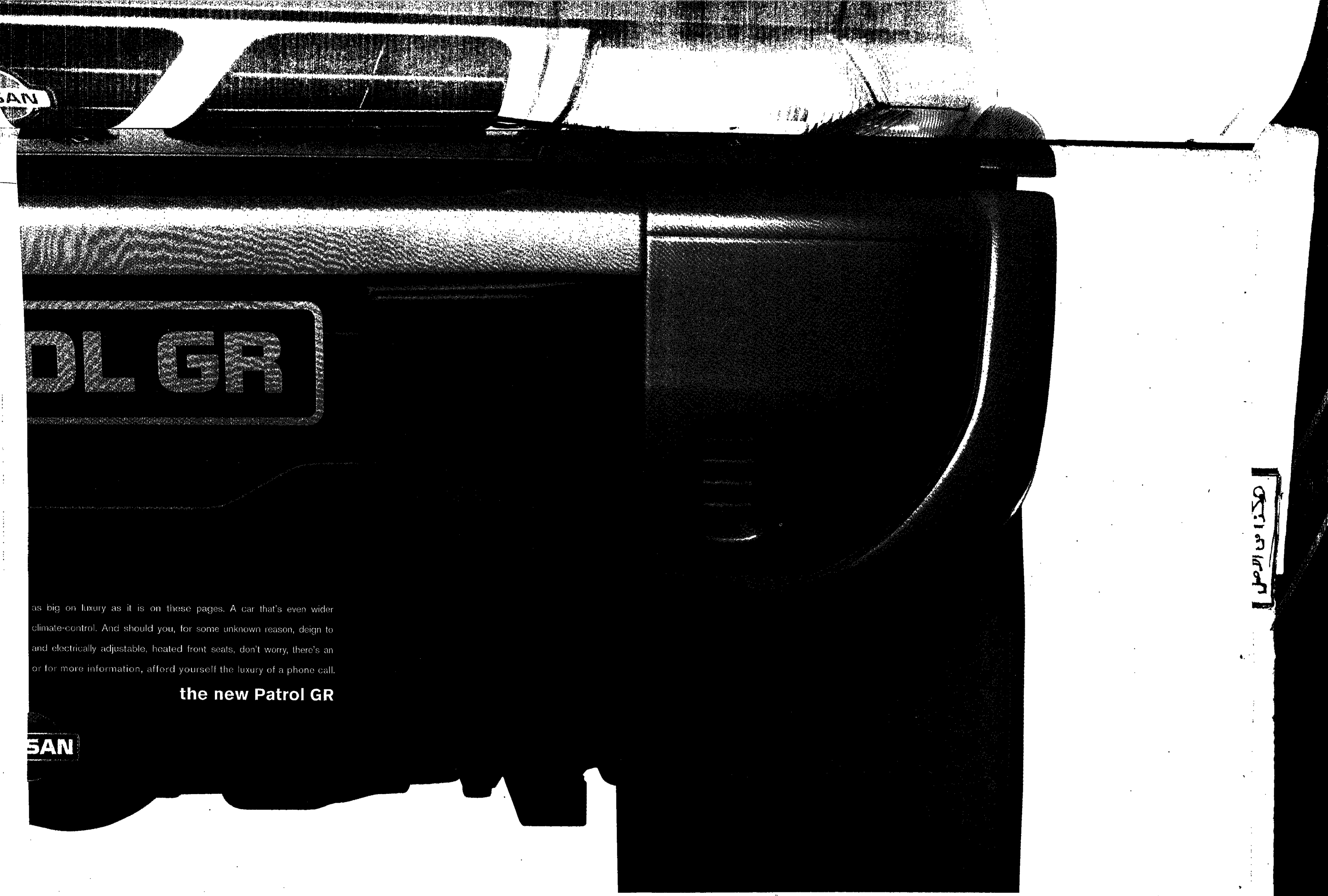
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Two men battle for stamp of authority

New Post Office chairman faces dogged opponent in incoming union chief, an ex-boxer who opposes any sell-off, reports **Dominic Kennedy**

ASK a postman at Mount Pleasant sorting office if the Post Office should run the National Lottery and he will laugh, bitterly, in your face. "They can't even run the Post Office," said one glum-faced employee, puffing on a cigarette outside the grim Victorian building in central London.

Mount Pleasant should be as much a centre of national pride as the Millennium Dome. Here, in Europe's largest sorting office, 30,000 letters an hour are processed.

Deep below is London's "secret" railway, Mail Rail, which trundles between Paddington and Liverpool Street, stopping at Wimpole Street, Museum Street and St Martin's le Grand.

The news that the Post Office has been quietly bidding for the lottery licence when Camelot's contract expires in 2001 has brought disbelief from the business world. With 193,000 employees, the Post Office is second only to the National Health Service in the size of its workforce. In 1996-97, it was responsible for two-thirds of all time lost through disputes in the United Kingdom, a remarkable 810,900 days.

Neville Bain, the new chairman of the Post Office, sees as his mission the task of modernising the Post Office. Yesterday his already difficult task became harder when his workforce elected Derek Hodgson as their union leader, a leftwinger with a mandate to resist privatisation. He supports, however, the Post Office's bid to run the lottery.

Given its monopoly, the Post Office inevitably makes large profits. Last year it achieved a record of £577 million, helped by the increase in the cost of stamps. Yet despite its woeful industrial relations and antiquated working practices, the Post Office remains popular with the public and Labour MPs. It was the first postal service in Europe to use an independent sampling service and proved that it meets its target of 90 per cent delivery on the next working day.

Ministers have been told that the Post Office is considering a joint bid to run the National Lottery with Littlewoods pools. It is an attractive option for the Government. The public likes the idea of a non-profit making lottery. Labour could portray the policy as a lifeline for rural sub-post offices.

On the shop floor, though, the mood of distrust between worker and manager is such that staff have already developed a theory to explain why the Post Office wants the lottery. "Next week they are banning us from leaving the building to buy lottery tickets in newsagents," said one worker at Mount Pleasant. "They are buying the lottery from Camelot so we won't have to leave the building."

Escape plots are rife at Mount Pleasant, a former prison. Managers do not know how many people are really working at any time because workers are forever vanishing to claim the unofficial 10-minute rest they are due each hour, supposedly to use the lavatory. In fact, many are going for a "fag break", to buy a snack from the café over the road or, on Saturday nights, to buy lottery tickets. To stop this, managers are banning breaks unless people really go to the lavatory. They are also introducing electronic swipe cards and turnstiles.

Then there are the strikes. The last one, a fortnight ago, lasted for 2½ days. One postal worker claimed that the strike had followed the suspension, without pay, of two employees for allegedly being drunk.

Yesterday Mr Hodgson began his first day as the leader of the Communication Workers' Union. Its former general secretary, Alan Johnson, left to become a Labour MP. A member of Labour's National Executive, Mr Hodgson makes little secret of his loathing for Peter Mandelson: "Read the article I have written in *Tribune* about spin doctors spinning out of control."

When Mr Hodgson left school at 15, he began work as a telegram boy in the Post Office. At the end of his first week, he went to collect his wages from the ex-regimental sergeant. He would not hand over the money until Mr Hodgson addressed him as "sir". When the youth refused, the union was called in and forced the man to give the boy his wages. Mr Hodgson was immediately recruited as union representative for the telegram boys. One of his duties was to deliver dispatch boxes to the Cardiff MP George Thomas, who later became Speaker of the Commons and Lord Tonypandy. He encouraged the youth to become interested in Labour.

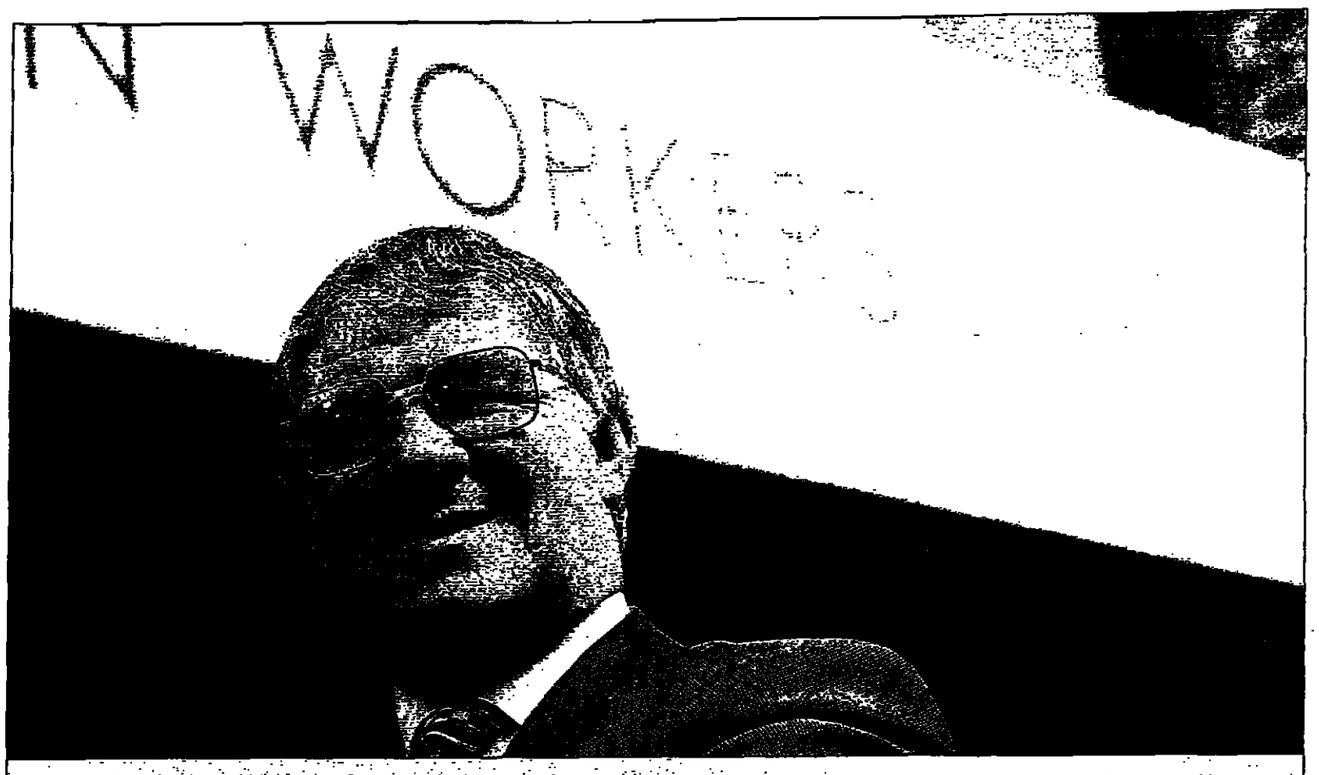
Aged 14, Mr Hodgson held the schoolboy boxing record for the quickest knock-out, felling an opponent in 16 seconds and five punches. A motorcycle accident at 19 ruined his hopes of professional boxing and slightly shortened one leg. Five years ago, he fell off a horse and broke the other leg which, because of the pins inserted, has been lengthened. One leg is now three quarters of an inch longer than the other. But it has not stopped him from squaring up to Dr Bain, who went to the same college, Otago University in Dunedin, New Zealand, as his nephew.

Mr Hodgson met the new Post Office chief shortly after his appointment, and told him: "I have got my spies out to see if you had any indiscretions as a youth that I can use against you."

A secret plan by Ian Lang, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, to franchise the Post Office if the Conservatives won the election, has probably been scrapped by Labour. Selling 49 per cent is a serious option. Mr Hodgson would fight that.

Should Mr Hodgson and Dr Bain be allowed to run the lottery? At Mount Pleasant, the workers are not keen to trust either man with their weekly flutter. "Give it to Richard Branson," said the conspiracy theorist.

Additional reporting by Christine Buckley



Derek Hodgson, the general secretary of the Communication Workers' Union, held the record for the quickest knockout as a schoolboy boxer

THE UNION LEADER

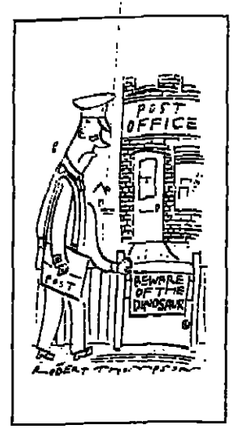
Born: Cardiff, 1941.
First job? Telegram boy.
Greatest achievement at work? Part of the union team which outwitted Michael Heseltine to make it impossible to privatise the Post Office.
Does he know anything about politics? Rather. He has been on the Labour Party's National Executive for years and was with John Smith the night before he died.
How much does he earn? £50,000 a year from the union. His other roles, on the trade union bank and Post Office pension fund, are voluntary.
How did he get the job? Through the democratic mandate of the Communication Workers' Union, expressed via a secret postal ballot yesterday.
Sport of choice: A boxer in his youth, he almost turned professional but broke his leg in a motorcycle accident. He recovered sufficiently to take up rugby (as prop forward), football and horseriding. He fell off a horse and now plays golf.



Bain: politically naive

THE CHAIRMAN

Born: Dunedin, New Zealand, 1940.
First job? Trainee inspector, Inland Revenue, New Zealand.
Greatest achievement at work? Becoming a real-life Willy Wonka: one of the most powerful men in chocolate as managing director of Cadbury Worldwide. Rose through ranks after starting as cost accountant.
What does he earn? £80,000 a year for a two-day week at the Post Office. Plenty more from his other interests.
How did he get the job? Somebody had to do it. He had time to spare in between his roles as chairman of Hogg Robinson, deputy chairman of SHL Group and non-executive director of Safeway and an investment trust. Margaret Beckett appointed him from a small field of contenders to run the creaky, strike-ridden Post Office.
Does he know anything about politics? Not much. He admits it is the area where he is least experienced.
Sport of choice? Former rugby flank forward.



Spanish practices recall the Seventies

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

The old-fashioned working practices at the Post Office which recall a nearly-lost age of industrial conflict include

Seniority: whoever has been there longest decides what job they do, what shift they work and which holidays they get.
Phantom overtime: delaying work until the weekend when the staff can claim a higher rate of pay because it is "overtime".
Breaks: ten minutes an hour can be taken as a break.
Night shift: permanent overtime, a perk reserved for the most senior workers.
Double bubble: the basic weekly pay for a shift of seven hours and 36 minutes is about £225. But most postmen earn half as much again. The average is £319 — made up of supplements, regime payments, shift premiums, allowances and overtime. By starting work five hours early or leaving five hours late, a postman can double his money because of the overtime rate. Work seven days a week and he or she can make £600.
Bonus: workers get various "bonuses" as a right. But far from making them happy, this is another source of grievance because, as they complain, they cannot get "overtime" on their bonuses. The staff are paid at a flat rate however many hours they work.

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It was confirmed in the March 1998 Budget that PEPs will continue in their current format until 5th April 1999 when the Individual Savings Account will be introduced. After this date all existing PEPs can continue to be held as PEPs outside ISAs but with the same tax advantages as ISAs.
[3]Source: Investors Chronicle Magazine, 6th March 1998.
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Finger footballers tackle new kids on the block

Computer games are threat to Subbuteo's traditional supremacy as the World Cup approaches, reports **Damian Whitworth**

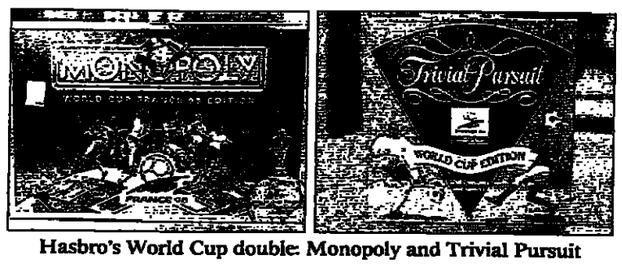
WITH almost two months to go before the official start of the World Cup, one of the biggest matches of the tournament kicks off next week and looks set to be a hard, bruising, commercial contest.

The arena is the high street. The prize is to be the best-selling World Cup football game with the cash bonanza that brings. And the clash of styles could not be clearer.

The reigning champion is Subbuteo, the game in which players flick little plastic men across a piece of carpet to hit an easily-squashed ball. The pretenders to the crown are the flashiest new computer games on the market. It is a tussle between the old and accomplished team adored by schoolboys, and the young blades hoping to dazzle with new tricks.

It would appear, on the face of it, that the veteran Subbuteo team has had its day. Electronic computer games have improved beyond all recognition in the eight years since England were last in the World Cup finals, and football games are among the most popular in a multi-billion pound industry.

A clutch of football games is being released to coincide with the tournament, but there are two that are expected to score phenomenal success. These are World Cup 98, the official World Cup game that is under licence from Fifa (and which will be available for Nintendo, Sony Playstation and personal computers), and Three Lions, the official England team game licensed by the Football Association and available for Playstation and personal computer.



Hasbro's World Cup double: Monopoly and Trivial Pursuit

BMG Interactive, publisher of Three Lions, comes out of the tunnel first and unveils its product next week. Next month, Electronic Arts will enter the retail stadium with World Cup 98. The cost to these companies of licensing deals with Fifa and the Football Association are unknown, but both teams regard the price as the video games equivalent of transfer fees — high, but worth it if triumph can be assured. Dan Houser, associate producer of Three Lions, has the confidence of a manager with eleven fit Alan Shearers in his side. "There will be about eight football video games launching this year, but only two really count — ours and World Cup 98. You have to have a licensing deal to do really well. We are hoping to sell between 100,000 and 300,000 copies."

Although football video games have always sold during international tournaments, the market in 1998 is the biggest yet with two million Sony Playstations and 600,000 Nintendo N64 consoles in the UK alone. Electronic Arts expect to sell up to half a million copies of World Cup 98, at a typical price of £39.99, providing revenues of almost £20 million.

But Hasbro, manufacturer of Subbuteo, should not be written off just yet. The table-top game that coined the phrase "flick to kick" has a phenomenal track record. Moreover, although it experienced a slight loss of form in the Eighties, it is still a consistent performer. More than five million people worldwide are said to be players, and 300,000 games are sold each year. In Britain alone half a million teams are bought annually.

Subbuteo World Cup, at £29.99, is Hasbro's response to the opposition. It features the England, France and Brazil sides, the famous green pitch and balls and, most dramatically, two new players; a throw-in man and a corner kicker. The manufacturer seems unfazed by the threat of the new kids at its heels: "Subbuteo has a world-wide reputation and the link up with the World Cup gives us a very strong team indeed".

Hasbro hasn't stopped with its diminutive plastic men. A World Cup version of Monopoly and a World Cup edition of Trivial Pursuit completes what it boasts is a "hat-trick." Whether or not three goals will be enough to win the World Cup is anyone's guess, but it should be a hell of a match.



Subbuteo's new World Cup edition features the addition of throw-in and corner-kick players, who stand on larger bases that contain a simple lever mechanism operated by a button at the rear. When the button is pressed, the ball is either kicked or thrown into the air with more elevation than normally gained by flicking the traditional figures. "Depending on how much force players use, they can lift the ball over other players and into the area you want," say Hasbro.



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No beer tents for Chelsea, pleads Banks

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

TONY BANKS yesterday urged the Swedes to learn from past mistakes by not erecting cheap beer tents for visiting supporters or allowing any ticketless Chelsea fans free access to the final of the European Cup-Winners' Cup on May 13.

The Minister for Sport and long-time Chelsea supporter also called on the football authorities to increase the provisional allocation of 9,000 tickets to his fellow fans, who are eager to watch the club in their first European final since 1971.

In 1989, the Swedes allowed ticketless followers into the 37,000-capacity Rasunda Stadium in Stockholm to prevent further violence at a World Cup qualifying game. And, in 1992, the Swedes initially adopted a "softly, softly" approach to the European Championship by ignoring advice from the British Government to deny drink to the England fans. Instead they put up a beer tent in the centre of Malmo, which became the focal point for an outbreak of hooliganism.

Mr Banks said: "You cannot let people into a stadium without tickets. There can be no question of that happening again. I would be angry both as a Chelsea supporter and Sports Minister if that happened."

The minister, who watched the semi-final triumph over Vicenza at Stamford Bridge on Thursday and is hoping to go to the final against Stuttgart, emphasised that it "would not be a wise thing to put up beer tents" in Stockholm.

However, he added: "Stockholm is not going to be invaded by barbarians. The Chelsea fans will be looking for a good time, not for trouble and we hope the Swedes will be hospitable."

A Chelsea delegation flew to Stockholm yesterday to meet European football federation (UEFA) and local officials to finalise the ticket allocation. With Chelsea alone having 18,000 season ticket-holders, Colin Hutchinson, the club's managing director, said that "the Germans and Chelsea will certainly want every ticket possible".

Sport, page 37



VALERIE GROVE MEETS: **HELENA KENNEDY, QC**

Pocket dynamo with energy to take on world


TONY WHITE

Despite all the other calls on her time, Lady Kennedy still loves the Bar "with a passion"

The day Helena Kennedy was introduced into the House of Lords was Guy Fawkes Day, which seemed a good joke in itself. Then, after she had done her hat-doffing and bowing out of the chamber, she was immediately kissed by two fellow Labour peers, Richard Rogers and Clive Hollick.

Thinking that it must be part of the ritual, Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws, QC, proceeded to kiss every one of the astonished peers standing in line to be introduced. "All these guys were quite amazed to be pounced on and kissed by me," she says, shrieking with laughter. "I made myself very popular. Even now, the ones who missed out ask me for their kiss. They find me very ... disarming."

Disarming is a good word for what Lady Kennedy, in her prime at 47, does. Her tiny, capable, determined figure confronts stuffy institutions and shakes them up. It was announced on Thursday that she is to be the first woman chairman of the British Council — that worthy body about which we know little other than that it teaches English to those unfortunate enough to live in foreign parts. Lady Kennedy herself once did so in Hamburg.

Her appointment signals the council's wish to change its image. It had come to seem "like all British institutions I have come to know, such as the Inns of Court, rooted in a particular class of English men. Decent, fine and good folk, of course. But that stereotype of the paternalistic British is no longer representative of a world where there are women in senior positions, not just chaps."

She already occupies several chairs and is Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University. Is she never daunted by taking on extra work? "I don't do anything that I don't *really care about. And I'm quite* disciplined." As the third of four daughters of a printer on the *Daily Record* in Glasgow, she did her homework on the kitchen table. "I learnt to shut off and get on."

Lady Kennedy zips through conversation at a cracking speed in an ineradicable Scottish accent: straight-talking, unintimidating, unpompous. When her long brown curls are tied back, with her strong features and decided chin, she can resemble fierce portraits of those Victorian women who founded hospitals and colleges. Like her capable forebears, she surmounts all obstacles.

When she was finding it tough to find chambers, she set up her own in three tiny rooms with five other novice practitioners, and began to specialise in defending long-suffering wives and indefensible men. She took silk in 1991, unusual for a woman without an Oxbridge degree, more so for one from the Scottish working class. Her book, *Eve Was Framed*, tackled the fact that while crime (*le crime*) is a masculine word, and the figure of Justice is female, the law in practice is still essentially male.

Interviewed by the British Council's largely male and Tory-leaning panel of interviewers — "I talked fairly passionately" — she told them that what the council needed was strong advocacy, since its work was largely invisible to the public. For instance, she has worked with the council on strategies to educate women in the Third World. "As Madeleine Albright says, the way to affect the developing world is by investing in women." Few know about such efforts.

She told the panel she hoped the job would not make her feel she was "treading through treacle". "But I said the very fact of appointing me would reflect a different image of what the British Council is about. And they knew that I am not a Labour Party toe-



the-liner and would fight any further cuts in the council's government grant."

She spoke recently at a library in Hampstead, northwest London, that is threatened with closure and was to be picketed. Would a Labour peer walk through a Nalgo picket line? Well of course she would, how daft to try to stop her speaking in support of libraries in the community. "I don't like political correctness. I don't believe in rigidity." (In fact, the picket stayed away.)

The first time Lady Kennedy hove into the public eye, in the mid 1980s as moderator in a Granada TV hypothetical on surrogate motherhood, she was three months pregnant. She knows all about the guilty dilemma of working motherhood: she once had to take a breast pump with her while interviewing bishops for *Heart of the Matter*. Today, with three children under 15 (all at local state schools) she manages by having an *au pair* to ferry the children, a daily who irons, and a husband, Iain Hutchison, the cancer specialist.

Their house in Hampstead, formerly the home of R.D. Laing, was the venue last May 1 for one of the big election night parties. (She will not be holding an anniversary party: she is engaged to speak at Maya Angelou's 70th birthday.) Naturally, new Labour wanted her to try for a safe seat, and she did give it some thought. "But I like the freedom I have, to pursue the things I care about, which is very different from the shape and responsibility of an MP's life. I still love the Bar with a passion. I can make pockets of time to write, or for public service in things I feel are important, like education. Education is the key to directly changing people's lives. It changed mine."

Last summer, when she produced the Kennedy Report on further education, she launched it with a long symposium in Westminster, then hared off to the Old Bailey (changing rapidly from white trouser suit into subfusc and wig) where the jury was delivering a guilty verdict on her client, an IRA bomber. People often ask how she can represent such people. The answer is she believes in the cab rank system, accepting whoever flags her down, and flings herself into the case, no matter how serious the allegations. Her current client is a Kurdish film-maker charged with drug dealing and money laundering.

The Kennedy Report concentrated on the "backlog of thwarted potential" of sub-literate, innumerate, barely educated and hard-to-employ who make up one-sixth of the workforce. The research took her to council estates full of demoralised men. "I came back on the train one day and my heart was heavy. How were we to deal with the white working class who had expected to be riveters and steel-workers like their fathers, and had never worked? The most testosterone-filled men find a college of further education daunting. We'll have to be creative in finding a way of bringing men back in. Their womenfolk are like *Educating Rita*. I'd ask them, how does your man feel about you going back to college? 'He thinks I've gone to find a bloke,' they'd say, or, 'he lets me go as long as his dinner's on the table'.

"I'm lucky to be in a profession where we learn about new things all the time. I had a case about brain injury and discovered new things about neurology. It keeps one mentally agile. Most people don't have that good fortune. It's been proved that continuous learning is as good for your self-esteem as regular sex."

Typically, on the evening we met she went straight from court to Birmingham, to speak in a memorial service for the playwright David Edgar's wife, Eve. Yesterday she went straight from court to Heathrow to fly to a law conference in Belfast, speaking on reforming the judiciary. You need not even ask whether she has time to fit in the British Council as well. Does she ever say no? Yes. She told Ruby Wax: "There's no way you're coming into my home to look into my fridge or my underwear drawer."

Hearts of darkness in family history

THEATRE

Cottesloe: Our Lady of Sligo

OTHER people have family albums and anecdotes. Only Sebastian Barry remembers his forebears by putting them in plays that simultaneously celebrate their lives and the Irish history through which they briefly passed. Great-grandparents, great-uncles and, for all I know, grand-grandgreatcousins five times removed haunt work after work; but never more memorably than in *Steward of Christendom*, whose protagonist was a relative mentally splintered by serving Britain as Dublin's first Catholic police chief.

Barry's new *Our Lady of Sligo*, again directed by Max Stafford-Clark for Out of Joint, has strong similarities. Mai O'Hara, his grandmother, is also incarcerated with anguished thoughts, visitors from the past, and opportunities for long monologues; but this time in a Dublin hospital, not a madhouse. She is dying of a liver cancer whose growth cannot have been slowed by chronic alcoholism. At times you feel disappointment, anger and despair are killing her. Barry calls her "the darkest person I've written about", and the play his darkest yet.

Thanks to a performance from Sinead Cusack that matches Donal McCann's unforgettable Thomas Dunne in *The Steward*, that seems a fair claim. The piece remains pretty gruelling right up to an ending which is meant to be redemptive but, despite a fiercely touching profession of love from Nigel Terry as Mai's embattled husband Jack, does not really feel so. Where *Our Lady of Sligo* falters is on the social and political side. Beside Dunne, Mai is of no great psycho-historical moment.

The introductory text is better than the play at making one understand that Mai and Jack were well-to-do Catholics — he a major in the British Army in the Second World War — as uneasy as any ascendant Protestant in De Valera's nationalist island. But their prime problems were personal. He was always a heavy drinker and she hit the bottle after his debts forced her to sell her father's house and move to horrible Sligo. After the death of a son, probably due to her alcoholism, rancour destroyed a woman brimming with life and possibility.

Lying in bed, tottering round her depressing room, then brightly hallucinating the past, Cusack makes us believe in the frustrated energy, the babyish nostalgia for a loving father, the scorn, the self-disgust, the bleak humour and, finally, a primal terror of death. It is a performance hawked up from the stomach, a testimony to the pain and power of Barry's latest foray into family biography.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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Hit dealers where it hurts most

The City must stop laundering drug money, says **Jeffrey Robinson**

The answer to the war on drugs is not decriminalisation. That keeps young people out of jail; but it doesn't keep drugs out of young people. Nor can Britain win the war through education. Trying to scare a 15-year-old out of youthful experimentation by threatening death — when no 15-year-old believes he or she is ever going to die — is akin to speaking in tongues.

Sealing off borders doesn't diminish supply. If the Ayatollah couldn't keep drugs out of Iran and the Chinese can't keep them off the streets of Beijing, what chance has Britain? Borders are porous. The Americans proved this when, in 1992, a joint task force — comprising the Navy, Coast Guard, Drug Enforcement Administration, Customs and FBI — electronically sealed off the Gulf of Mexico, the main entry point into the United States for drugs from Latin America. Every plane, boat, microlight, seagull and surfboard crossing the line was charted, plotted, stopped and inspected. One year and $1bil-lion later, the amount of drugs entering the country was unchanged.

Nothing will change until the war on drugs becomes a war on the business of drugs. This applies especially to Britain where a large part of the world's drug business is managed. Drug trafficking thrives on cashflow and reinvestment. Street cash goes into the global banking system, spins around the world, moves in and out of shell companies and through secret banking jurisdictions, and is then repatriated, as legitimate profit. As much as £300 billion is right now immersed in this money laundering cycle.

By law, everyone is supposed to report suspicious cash transactions. It is Britain's frontline defence against money laundering — not because it works, but because it's the least expensive alternative. Consequently, dishonest bankers wash dirty money through Britain while honest bankers frantically over-report. Some 20,000 suspicious cash transaction reports were filed last year to the National Criminal Intelligence Service. As far as I am aware, NCIS has never midwifed a single successful prosecution for the laundering of international drug money.

More than 50 jurisdictions around the world offer secret banking. At least as many also sell secret shell companies. And even if the shenanigans of the Channel Islands have finally attracted the glare of the Inland Revenue, the Commonwealth Flag still flies over much of the offshore world, where Britain has, flagrantly, sold its sovereignty.

Searching for a place to hide money is no more difficult than opening the London *Yellow Pages* to "Company Registration Agents" — three pages — most of whom know how to connect you up with a secret banking jurisdiction, most of whom would sell you a shell company through which you could wash dirty money.

Two months ago I phoned one of these agents and blatantly asked where I could hide money. The person on the phone suggested Niue. I asked "Where the hell is Niue?" But the person didn't know.

It turns out to be a Commonwealth sandbar — population 2,321 — in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, 348 miles southeast of Western Samoa. That the agents who sell companies don't know where the protective jurisdiction is, or that it has been put on the map by Panamanian lawyers acting for Colombian drug cartels, hardly matters. For the price of a phone call, and a $135 (£80) fee, you can buy a Niue-ian company from someone in Central London and within 24 hours be funnelling drug money around the world.

If you don't want to bother with places you can't pronounce, there is always the British Caribbean. The price of admission is higher, but you pay for convenience. The Cayman Islands boasts one bank for every 57 citizens.

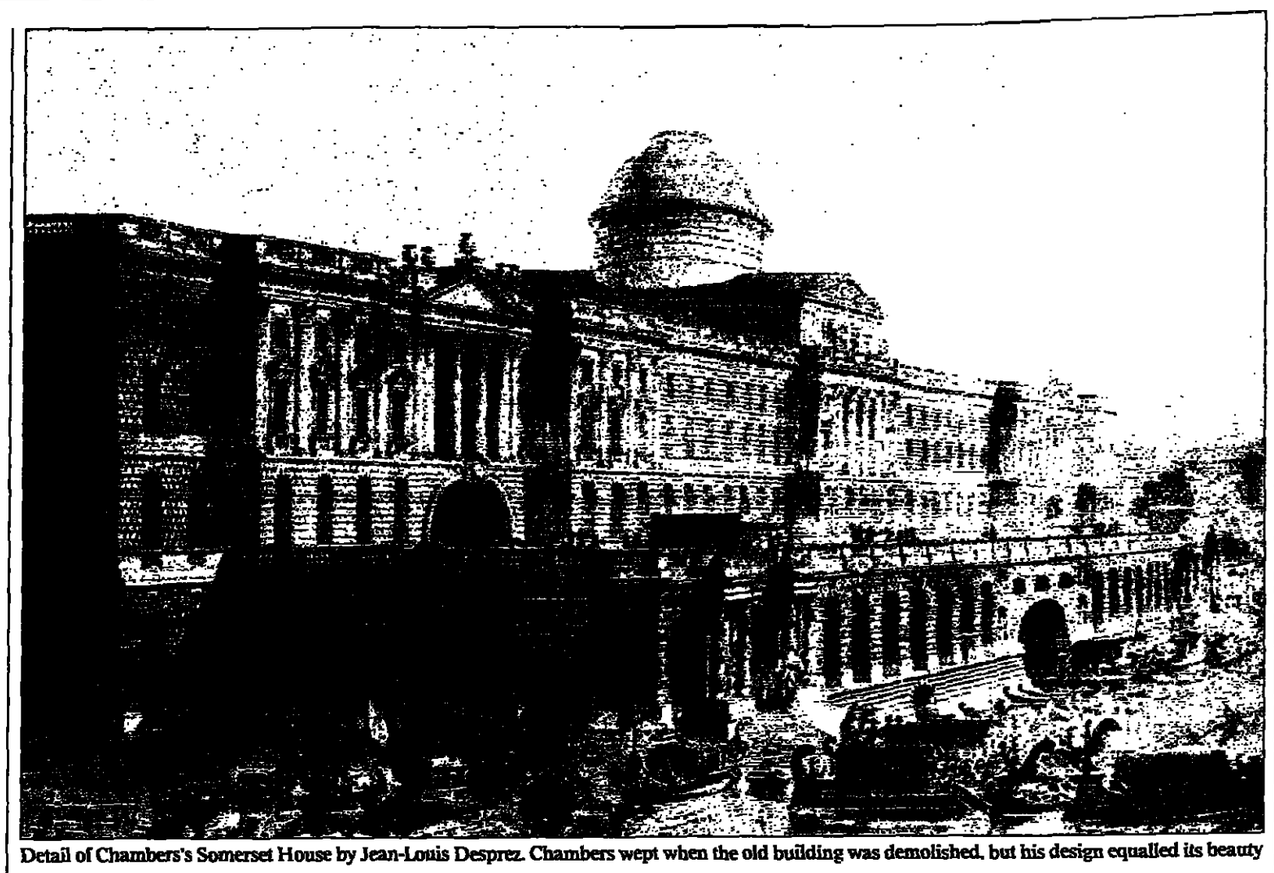
The war on drugs must be a war on the business of drugs

Once you have got your company and bank account set up offshore, the City has plenty of bankers, lawyers, accountants and company formation agents only too pleased to help you to spend it here. There are no laws in this country which hold professionals criminally responsible simply because they don't know the ultimate beneficial owner of the money behind a business.

Perhaps this is hardly surprising. These professionals make up a formidable special interest group. They would be adversely affected by any draconian policy denying traffickers and their laundrymen secret banking and the use of offshore shell companies. This, in turn, would adversely affect the City. So would coming down hard on non-bank financial institutions, beginning with Britain's largely unregulated bureaux de change. So would putting stockbrokers under a microscope, especially in the light of recent cases in the America where laundrymen purchased brokerages specifically to wash drug money.

The power to seize illegally accumulated assets is on the statute books, but hasn't been effectively wielded. Britain needs legislation which will put seized assets directly back into the war on drugs and not in a general Treasury fund. The laundrymen's profits must be one of the main weapons used against them.

The writer is author of The Laundrymen, *published by Simon & Schuster.*



Detail of Chambers's Somerset House by Jean-Louis Desprez. Chambers wept when the old building was demolished, but his design equalled its beauty

Monumental snubs

Spending money on demolishing ugly buildings is just as important as preserving the beautiful

Simon Jenkins

To have been a Romantic. "I never saw an ugly thing in my life," cried John Constable. "Show me any object," he said, "and light, shade and perspective will always make it beautiful." But then Constable was never dumped from the 9.30 Eurostar express on to the backside of Elizabeth House in Waterloo. The scene would have tested his sensibility to destruction. Nothing in Anglo-French relations is so monumental a snub as this sight. Elizabeth House, an empty Seventies slab owned by P&O, blocks the European gateway to London. It is an outrage. It is empty and should be demolished.

You will not have heard of Elizabeth House. Its offence is crude but casual, one more slap across the city's face by a distant corporation. There are so many such slaps that we cease to notice. We walk about with a hypodermic jammed in our arms, to anaesthetise the ugliness. Yet occasionally the anaesthetic wears off. This week a Labour MP, Barry Sheerman, picked up that old chestnut, "buildings I would like to demolish", and fashioned it into a soundbite. Ever since, Mr Sheerman, the Radio 4 *Today* programme and *The Times* have been inundated with suggestions. The public, briefly empowered, screamed its rage. Here is our list, it said. Get demolishing before the millennium.

There were the old favourites: London's Elephant and Castle, St Paul's Precinct, Millbank Tower, the Hayward Gallery, the Tower Hotel, Birmingham's Bull Ring and New Street Station, Manchester's Piccadilly Hotel, Newcastle's Eldon Square. There were the pet hates: the Barbican, Canary Wharf, the National Theatre. Then there were the dull aches, the high-rise estates, cheap hotels, dreary shopping centres and office blocks that were the chief contribution of the Seventies to Western civilisation. They would none of them be missed.

My preference is for removing the dull aches. There was a plan, probably long forgotten, for restoring Newcastle's once magnificent skyline by removing the six high-rise office blocks that so disfigure it. The city calculated that to demolish and rebuild them low-rise would cost under £10 million more than the cost of refurbishment. Yet they still stand, megaliths blocking every Georgian vista, crushing every perspective. Equally offensive is the single block that lowers over the old quayside in Bristol, or the Norwich Union hulk in Norwich, or the Seifert hotels round Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Government can preserve a hundred "listed buildings" in these neighbourhoods. The gain is worth little unless we also remove the eyesores.

We are paralysed from going down this path by a horror of disrespecting some unsung Michelangelo. We assume that a living artist must have created the Tower Hotel, the Bull Ring or the Arndale Centre, a craftsman who once delighted in Venice, admired Rubens, smelt a rose in an English garden. Who are we to destroy their handiwork? Later ages may find them beautiful.

When Sir William Chambers was preparing to demolish old Somerset House in 1776, he took a party of Royal Academicians round the building to see the work of his predecessor John Webb. He lectured them on the quality of Webb's work, the proportions, the plasterwork, the carved ornament. The following day, he said, all that would be destroyed, and he shed a tear. Today we would demand that Chambers build Somerset House elsewhere. But at least he acknowledged the challenge to replace with equal quality what he was destroying. So he did.

The same Crown patronage that commissioned Somerset House in the 1770s commissioned the Environment Department's old Marsham Street towers in the 1970s. I surely do not stretch language to say that Somerset House is beautiful and Marsham Street ugly. Praise be, Marsham Street is now being demolished and a less obtrusive block erected in its place. But I doubt that there will be an architects' tour of the old building, to marvel at its rhythmic fenestration, gasp at the cantilevers and run loving hands over the exquisite lift shafts. They are going, and good riddance.

Architecture is not a private practice. It is conducted by consenting adults in public but is inflicted on millions. Yet we feel the same timidity in handling it as towards, for instance, the Royal Academy's *Sensation* show last autumn. Fearing abuse as neophobes, we are told to suspend judgment in the cause of novelty. *Sensation* was a passing conceit, a freak show for the gullible. Besides, ugly art can be put in a cupboard. Ugly buildings are round us all the time. They desensitise and drive public taste into the arms of mock Tudor, fake Georgian, anything with frills. There is no arrogance like the architect's. He claims the protection of his aphorisms: architecture as frozen music, architecture striving after eternity, architecture as the art of wasting space.

The buildings erected in Britain from the mid-Sixties to the early-Eighties were almost universally bad. They were bad not because their architects were bad but because the regulators were bad. They capitulated to planning gigantism, greed and political ambition. Gigantism wrenched the heart out of Liverpool, Birmingham and Glasgow. Greed shoehorned every office and flat development into a mass-produced, low-cost box. Politics gave us the Home Office, the Mayfair Hilton, Knightsbridge Barracks, Euston station and a dozen hideous hospitals.

The Royal Institute of British Architects struggled to portray this period as one of Corbusian vision, of Miesian minimalism, of Modernist abstraction. The institute showered awards on terrible buildings, to launder the reputations of its senior members. Buildings were crudely designed to the requirements of quantity surveyors for maximum space at minimum cost. They may have served a purpose, as does a garden shed. But to ask the public to respect them, let alone as art, is ludicrous. If we do not demolish them, their going must await a nobler age. But the cost of removing the ugly is every bit as worthwhile as the cost of preserving the beautiful. If we cannot find a way of agreeing one from the other, more fool us.

The key to winning the confidence to demolish is to know how these blocks came to be erected. Many works in the Sixties and Seventies were the result of cynical decisions by public officials who knew nobody would hold them accountable. This explains the Defence Ministry estates that blot the countryside, or the spurious "planning gain" that won speculators the freedom to crowd the West London horizon with rectangular towers. These matters are better ordered today. The new Health Ministry in Whitehall, the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, the MI6 palace in Vauxhall all display some architectural personality, as do even such bureaucratic monsters as the VAT office in Liverpool and the NHS headquarters in Leeds.

The Seventies were thus a peculiar disaster. Cleansing the cities of their worst excrescences is not a matter of money. Money is subordinate to planning. Planners need confidence to demand the removal of eyesores as a precondition of further development. That confidence will come only from public outrage. A list of "uglies" whose removal is a planning imperative should be added to the government list of buildings for preservation. The French have such lists. Why not us?

In Central London the opposite is happening. The ugliest point and slab blocks of the 1960s and 1970s, often in defiance of zoning rules, are now due for refurbishment. Yet one after another is being reclad instead of being demolished. They are being reclad along the Euston and Marylebone roads, in St Martin's Lane, Stag Place and on the southern approaches to the Thames. This is happening because public opinion is weak, because the architectural profession is defensive and because, in London, nobody is in charge. And Elizabeth House is still there.

The French arriving at Waterloo can hoot with derision at the philistine British. For once they are right.

Galled by the French

Anjelica Goodden on grudges that cross the Channel

With the World Cup approaching, and traditional sporting rivalries heightened, perhaps we should ask ourselves why the French hate the English so much.

After all, we protected them during times of religious persecution: half a million Protestant Huguenots fled Catholic France in the late 17th century and many ended up in England. We sheltered them during the Revolution, despite the fact that we were fighting their homeland; and we even gave them the facilities to enjoy that favourite French pastime — tax avoidance — though their Government is now telling us not to. We liberated them. And we gave them (and the world) football, for which they are proposing to thank us in the very Gallic way of biting the hand that fed them. (True, they have always mocked our cuisine.)

Historically, we have treated the French with dizzying generosity. Sometimes we have benefited from it: the Huguenot weavers modernised our textile industries just as British designers are apparently now modernising Paris fashions. At other times our bounty seems to have been purely disinterested, even counter to the national interest: why did we pay the Catholic priests escaping in the French Revolution so handsomely, for instance, when all they did was preach alien doctrines, engage in useless activities such as making straw hats and artificial flowers, teach their abhorred language to the monoglot British, and live in large grace-and-favour homes dotted throughout the English countryside?

The nation to whom we gave football at some point, presumably gave us lacrosse, which is no exchange. Admittedly, they also gave us French cooking and, to an extent, French fashion. They gave us more frippery and foppishness than we really wanted: lacemaking and designer cobbling were one thing, but ridiculous bonnets and coiffeurs were another. When they failed to make much money they blamed the crudeness of the English taste; and the English responded handsomely, paying them a shilling a day to live on. Some, predictably enough, were too proud to accept: Chateaubriand preferred to starve, chewing rags in a Marylebone attic and devouring food-shop displays with his eyes. Decades later he returned to England as a grand ambassador and gave splendid French banquets. Was this simply an attempt at atonement?

We have always been masochistic about France and the French. Paris remains our favourite romantic weekend destination, despite the appalling rudeness of Parisians (though we are told, on no particular authority, that this has lessened over the past 20 years). But although it is far cheaper to travel by Eurostar from Paris to London than London to Paris, when the French do arrive in our capital they head straight for Scotland. What have we done? The Auld Alliance began in 1295, and there is no obvious reason for it to continue: with the Reformation Scotland became Protestant and the Auld Enemy, England, receded. But three centuries of co-operation against the English have left their mark.

Is it worth protesting? We do our best: a recent survey showed that the English bracket the French together with garden gnomes and fluffy dice as the three things they hate most in the world.

The author is fellow and tutor at St Hilda's College, Oxford.

Light relief

MR BEAN is going to All Souls. The Oxford college, an august nursery for statesmen and *grandes pensées*, can now call on the talents of Rowan Atkinson, the reclusive rubber-faced millionaire responsible for both *Bean* and *Blackadder*. The comedian has been pootling up to lecture on the nature of humour in the Old Library — the first time he has spoken in public about his "life, motivations and work". The laughter masterclass was "disadvertised" — an oblique way of saying uncouth elements were not notified. "We did not want to be inundated," explains Dr John Bailey, the bursar. Atkinson, who studied "electrical engineering" at the university in the Seventies, complained that he has to be witty on demand: "I am only funny when I'm paid to be," he told the gowns. Oddly he said *Blackadder*, "the careworn cynic who just pours scorn on anyone, especially Baldrick", was easier to play than the "complex" *Bean*, whose "self-serving, vindictive, anarchist" traits appealed to him. Atkinson's off-camera persona — Alan Clark declared: "He didn't sparkle, was disappointing" — did not deter dons from dining with him at High Table. "He is always welcome," says one port-passer. John Redwood, a former All Souls chap, and something of a comedian himself, said: "I am delighted the college has a sense of humour."







● *THE finest minds of the next millennium at Oxford University have created an Internet Website entitled the Snogsheet Index, in which they list their conquests. The entry "Alan Duncan has snogged Olivia Somebody" suggests the system is open to abuse.*

Boxing stupid

CHRIS SMITH in security blunder. Or so my colleagues on the small prints might fashion my story. The Culture Secretary popped along to the National Theatre on Thursday to take in *Peter Pan*, starring that other delicate aesthete, Sir Ian McKellen. So keen was he to catch the start of the performance that he dumped his ministerial red box in the public cloakroom. An aide confirms: "Yes, Chris did leave his box. He felt it was the safest place." But did he realise that the cupboard was left unguarded during the interval?

● *CHERIE BOOTH will be up early next Sunday to join runners for the London Marathon. She will press the start button for the hotly contested wheelchair race — whose competitors make it to the Palace long before the runners do.*

Family feuds

WARNING. Anna Pasternak, author of *A Princess In Love*, is to burst into print again. Just as her account of the romance between Diana, Princess of Wales, and James Hewitt drew on reality, this work might seem a shade familiar to Lord Palumbo and his estranged son, Jamie. A couple of years ago she started writing *The Feud*. It featured an Italian immigrant who makes a bundle in property, marries well, and is garlanded, but falls out with his son. It never appeared after her friend Jamie expressed qualms. But now Pasternak (pictured), great-niece of Boris, is trying again with *More Than Money Can Buy*, a pacey yarn about "a man who follows his instincts", amasses wealth and founds a dynasty. "It's a family saga," she tells me brightly, "about the fact that money and success don't really hit the spot." Perhaps as the Palumbos have found. Now Pasternak has helpfully made the family Greek.

THE TIMES DIARY

JASPER GERARD



● *PRINCE EDWARD'S girlfriend is dabbling in treason. In the great vacuum-cleaning war, the delightful Sophie Rhys-Jones has sided with Germany against the plucky British outfit, Dyson. Sophie is sprinkling her PR fairy-dust over the Germans' Miele. I trust she will not take her campaign home to Buckingham Palace.*

Poetic licence

ONLY for those with strong livers. The meanderings of Dylan Thomas are to be turned into a literary trail by that touristic hotspot, Swansea. The council has applied for a £500,000 EU bung to turn the poet's birthplace, drinking haunts and the shed in Laugharne where he composed his magical works, into an international attraction. "There is a lot of interest in Japan and America. We have hired consultants to look at Dublin's James Joyce trail," says a boyo. Might it not become a pub-crawl? "Thomas did a lot of drinking in a lot of places." Dear Thomas had views on the birthplace of his fathers: "My fathers can have it."



NORMA MAJOR is still bemoaning her husband's humbling last May. The charming wife of John Major has, I can disclose, decided to abandon a secret plan to pen an incisive work about No 10, which would have accompanied her study about Chequers. Sadly, she has decided that the severity of the Tory defeat in May would make marketing the book difficult. But her publisher, HarperCollins, is consoled by an ambitious new plan to make a film of a romantic novel about the French Revolution. Norma first read *The Way To The Lantern* by one Audrey Erskine Lindop while on honeymoon. Not content with helping John with his memoirs, Norma, a writer of some ability, has become fascinated with this rather obscure effort, which tells the tale of a winning rogue who evades the guillotine. It was first published in 1961 by Collins but, to Norma's chagrin, has been out of print for some while. "It is a book John and I have both liked and we think it would make a fantastic motion picture," says Norma. One suggestion is that she will consult her good friend Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who knows a thing or two about potboilers. "The Majors: a literary dynasty" gathers pace.

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هكذا من الاصل

HYPING IT

Losses and gains from misunderstanding Diana

Yesterday we reported on an essay which took to task the whole country for its overreaction to the death of the Princess of Wales. The days before the funeral were dominated, according to the philosopher author, by "the culture of caring, of niceness, of the people". It was the week *in which* "irrationalism and the paramount need to confess and express one's feelings somehow came to a head". And Professor O'Hear hated it all.

He and the fellow authors of *Faking It: The sentimentalisation of modern society* are angry. Their book constitutes a broad assault on contemporary society, its alleged lack of rigour and reason, its love of unreason and sentiment. According to one of its editors, Digby Anderson, "a new ingredient is dominating modern politics and cultures". According to O'Hear, Britain post-Diana is another country. We have all experienced "a defining moment in our history".

It must be wondered what country the professor was living in before the death of the Princess or how far back in history he was thinking. According to Dr Anderson, the funeral was "sentimentality personified and canonised". Is that supposed to represent a novelty? The Princess, herself, is castigated for childlike, self-centered, self-indulgent and decadent qualities. Even if that were fair, is that supposed to be new too?

Philosophy professors are paid to espouse the cause of reason. And if they also choose to espouse the cause of last-ditch conservatism, the kind that ignores the contours of *the country rather than adjusting itself* to their changes, that is their choice. But a cultural historian has to have some sense of the patterns that make up a culture, the emotions that move people as well as the reasons that may seem to do so.

Earlier this century there were prominent critics who rejected Greek sculpture because it was too rational. They were rapidly followed by those who examined the forces behind the creation of the Parthenon and found them teeming with superstitions, semi-religions and emotional mush. Eventually a balance was found. It is foolish to see the funeral of Diana as though it were a turning point into a new and unenlightened age. *It was an event that exposed for a while* softer, more feminine and informal forces, as other events have done before. It will be countered by opposite forces. It is a feeble hook to hang any broader conservative angst about the success of Tony Blair's spin-doctors, the appeal of alternative medicine and the failures of 1960s educational theory.

On the morning after her death, we wrote here under the headline "A Modern Mirror". *The funeral week took us far beyond* the life of the Princess herself. Many millions were quick to see themselves as part reflections of her face. But the reflection presented by Dr Anderson and Professor O'Hear is a peculiarly *distorted one. It offers* a grotesque caricature of her life and misconstruction of reaction to her death. It marginalises that about the Princess which the professor concedes, in passing, was "genuine and positive". It demeans a public response that, while tumultuous and uncontrolled, was, as the professor acknowledges, "not insincere or superficial". It vastly exaggerates both the extent to which the funeral encapsulated wider social forces and its subsequent impact on the country.

The sales of this book will doubtless be increased by the seven pages of senior-common-room bile. But the wider contention will be smothered. The text contains some fierce criticism of fads in education, environmentalism and medicine — too much therapy in society and too little discipline. Many will agree. The Princess of Wales, in life and death, was swept up in these trends. She was temporarily the glass through which some of them could be seen, magnified and, maybe even, as the authors wish, more easily reversed.

DIEHARDS IN THE SCRUM

South Africa's row over rugby could threaten its legal system

A High Court judgment that humiliates President Mandela looks certain to lead to a confrontation between the largely white South African judiciary and the black majority Government. Judge William de Villiers's ruling setting aside a commission of inquiry into the affairs of the country's rugby union is a personal rebuff to Mr Mandela, who went to court to press for an inquiry into what he maintains is an atmosphere of racism in the sport. The President has said he will abide by the ruling, but the anger of his supporters is clear. That anger has already been fuelled by former President Botha's refusal to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and his determination to use the legal system as a platform to rally white support around his diehard views.

To all South Africans, white and black, sport is virtually a religion. Mr Mandela knows that nothing is so symbolic of the post-apartheid era as the sight of a South African team playing abroad. For him, it is vitally important that rugby, a sport in which South Africa was gloriously triumphant in the 1995 World Cup, reflects the attempt to end racial divisions. His determination is reinforced by the benighted attitude of Louis Luyt, the head of the South African Rugby Football Union, whose defiance has taken on racial overtones. The judge gave no reason for his refusal to hold an inquiry; but it is noted that it was he who opposed the admittance of black lawyers to the Pretoria Bar 13 years ago.

The confrontation is wholly unnecessary. Racism is not the reason why only white players represent South Africa on the rugby field. The fact, which activists ignore, is that no black players qualify for the team. Soccer, not rugby, is the sport of the townships. To insist on fielding weak black players in international championships would lead to an explosion of white resentment at the ANC Government. Others sports in South Africa have come to terms with multiracialism far more tactfully. Was it above the wit of Mr Luyt to find ways to bring blacks into the game without compromising his team's chances?

Any inflaming of racial resentment risks strengthening the intense suspicion in ANC circles of those bodies, largely white, over which it has little influence. The Government knows that the country cannot alienate white-dominated business if South Africa is not to suffer white flight on a massive scale. But the party retains an almost Soviet view of the danger posed to its authority by unofficial associations. This paranoia was increased by the murky warnings by General Georg Meiring, head of the National Defence Force until his recent resignation, that disaffected senior black officers were planning a coup. The dismissal of these reports has in turn rebounded on the white officers whom the ANC suspects of fomenting trouble and whom it would like to remove.

The independence and transparency of the South African judiciary has been one of the vital factors for stability in the new South Africa. But there are many in the ANC who do not see this. They see, instead, a colonial institution with a colonial mentality, pulling in the opposite direction from the Government. Any attempt to encroach on the courts' independence would be disastrous. All the more foolish, therefore, for Judge de Villiers to dismiss the rugby inquiry so abruptly.

PUPILS FOR POWER

The Oxford Union v the student union

The playground of power has sometimes appeared to outsiders as a nursery of privilege. The Gothic grandeur of its buildings, mannered style of some speakers and the pride in Presidents who have gone on to great things have all combined to make the Oxford Union the Derry Irvine of student societies. No one can deny that it's clever and impressive, but does it really have to lord it so? The 175th anniversary of the Society, marked by a gala dinner last night stuffed with stars from Heath to Hague, only serves to emphasise to the rest of the world the high opinion the Union entertains of itself. It is an opinion, however, increasingly open to challenge.

The Prime Minister went to the Union only once while he was at Oxford, and that was to please his girlfriend. A Government that sends its Chancellor in a lounge suit to the Lord Mayor's Banquet is not likely to approve of undergraduates in evening dress imagining that the future belongs to them. As we report in our news pages, presidency of the National Union of Students is a surer route to office in Blair's Britain than possession of a fading white tie and an elegant way with the putdown. But while the NUS may be the playground of choice for those who aspire to power, there are virtues which the Oxford Union embodies which deserve celebration now more than ever.

The NUS may produce politicians skilled in the arts of the committee and the caucus, adept at negotiating insurance concessions, but its alumni are primarily machine men and women. Politics needs wire-pullers and fixers, the Whips'-Office and Parliamentary Under-Secretaryships require little else. But there must be more to politics than maintaining the machine. Statesmanship resides in giving the machine direction and defending the unpopular thought before the unthinking crowd.

This Government is inclined to treat Parliament with less respect than it should, to regard aggressive cross-examination at Question Time as an impertinence, and debate as a luxury. Such anxiety to do rather than say is a consequence of laudable reforming ambition, but the Government should not forget the importance of Parliament as, literally, a talking-shop. Ideas should be tested not by their impact on a focus group but their durability in debate.

The Oxford Union, for all its faults, teaches its members that the mark of a civilised mind is the capacity to use both reason and melody to win assent to a proposal, and the civilised man would rather lose in that arena than get his way by grubbier means. The style of debate favoured by generations of Union debaters may not have the brisk assurance of the modern soundbite. But it pays its audience the compliment of assuming that they appreciate the music of language as well as its meaning. The graduates of the playground recognise that a delight in debate is the mark of the mature.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Diana's role and our 'fake' society

From Mr John Morrison

Sir, Professor Anthony O'Hear is quite right to try and make sense of the phenomenal events following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales (report, April 17). Perhaps the most significant part of his study is the examination and accurate exposé of the condition of our society, something which is long overdue.

The media in general may choose to castigate him for his objective study, but many people, I for one, are of the opinion that the very same media delved into and exposed Diana's private life mercilessly and their continual scandalmongering played no small part in eventually destroying her.

Perversely, having destroyed her, the same media now seek to make an icon of her and even on occasions suggest elevating her to the status of sainthood.

Yours sincerely,
J. W. MORRISON,
146 Southmead,
Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 0SB.
April 17.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, In my view much of the grief at Diana's funeral was for the defeat of openness (albeit often involuntary) and courage by our "fake institutions".

We contrasted the qualities of the Princess against those of the rigidly *righteous family she married into*, exposed most unpleasantly in its treatment of her personally, and we had no doubt where our sympathy, yes sympathy, lay.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8 7JY.
April 17.

From Mrs Jennifer Miller

Sir, How can Anthony Holden claim, as you report today, that Princess Diana was rejected by the monarchy a year before her death?

After her divorce, Buckingham Palace issued a press release, announcing that the Princess of Wales would still "be regarded by the Queen and the Prince of Wales as being a member of the Royal Family" and would receive invitations to state and national public occasions, when she would be accorded her former precedence (report, July 13, 1996).

With the Queen's agreement, the Princess would continue to live in Kensington Palace and be allowed to use the state apartments in St James's Palace for entertaining.

There is no reason to suppose that this clearly stated policy was not adhered to, forming part of her extremely generous financial settlement from the Crown, and she was evidently officially held to be a member of the Royal Family, despite misleading reports.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER MILLER,
2 Heathview Gardens, SW15 3SZ.
April 17.

From Mr James K. Prentice

Sir, Bravo! Somebody sensible has said it at last and out loud. Many who are "entitled to their opinions" share Professor O'Hear's view of the lady.

The idolatry has gone too far. I salute the professor.

Sincerely,
JAMES PRENTICE,
312 Willoughby House,
Barbican, EC2Y 8BL.
April 17.

Maps of old London

From Mr Peter Barber

Sir, The "map" to which Mr John Freeman refers (letter, April 8) is in fact a modern redrawing of Wijngaerde's panoramic drawn *view* of London, dating from 1543-44, now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The newly discovered copperplate referred to in your report (March 30) belongs to the earliest detailed printed *map* of London of which anything (and even then no printed impression) survives. This "copperplate" map probably dates from the mid-1550s.

The map in Mr Freeman's 1908 book, traditionally (but wrongly) ascribed to Agas and dated to 1560, is generally agreed to be a woodcut map that was copied from the "copperplate" map.

In fact, as I argued in 1995 in *The London Topographical Record* (vol 27), there is evidence for a much earlier, bird's-eye map of London viewed up-river from just east of the Tower of London. This probably dated from the late 15th century and may have been engraved on copper, perhaps in Italy, in 1497. An idea of its appearance can be gained from a couple of later maps, and particularly from Cotton MS Augustus I.ii.64, now in the British Library, that was prepared for Henry VIII in 1539.

Unfortunately, however, no example of that map nor its copperplate is known, and so the "copperplate" map of the 1550s remains the earliest surviving map of London.

People following Dr Thurley's advice to look at the backs of their paintings on copper now have two London maps to look out for.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BARBER
(Deputy Map Librarian),
The British Library,
Great Russell Street, WC1B 3DG.
peter.barber@mail.bl.uk
April 8.

Blair's agenda for Middle East tour

From Mr Oliver Miles

Sir, Your leading article of April 16 ("Into the minefield") on the Prime Minister's forthcoming tour of the Middle East argues that the Arab-Israeli conflict has probably only captured the headlines as an issue on his agenda because of Mr Robin Cook's recent tour of the region, and the difficulties he faced in Israel. You suggest that Mr Blair may find this element "a surprisingly amicable exercise".

The fact is that the Arab-Israeli issue has caused five major wars in the area in the last 50 years, and has been the principal cause of the alienation of the Arab and Islamic worlds from America, Europe and what is called "the West". In this sense this question and others to which you refer — democracy and freedom in the Arab states, and the friction between secular and theological factions — are, as you rightly say, interconnected.

A real peace process was launched in Oslo in 1993, but it has been neglected and frustrated. The Egyptian Foreign Minister is reported to have said a couple of days ago that if no further Israeli troop withdrawals take place before a deadline in mid-June, the peace process is dead. In this Egypt is without doubt speaking for the mainstream Arab countries.

Britain, of course, was intimately involved in the story from the beginning, and British and European interests are still at stake. This is no less true because both we and the other Europeans have found it convenient to leave the lead role to America, *whose interests are in truth not so* heavily involved as our own.

If Mr Blair were to avoid controversy and treat his discussions of this issue as "an amicable exercise" he would betray the interests both of Britain and of Europe.

So it is good news that, far from adopting such a supine position, Mr Blair is quoted in an extensive interview given to the Egyptian *Al Ahram* in preparation for his tour as saying:

We are deeply concerned that the spirit of Madrid and Oslo has evaporated, and that the promise of those agreements has not been fulfilled. When I visit the region this week I will be doing so not just as the British Prime Minister but as the President of the European Union, with Europe equally concerned that we have to get this process going again. We need to "kick start" the process.

The Prime Minister deserves your support.

Yours,
OLIVER MILES
(Ambassador to Greece, 1993-96),
2 Belbroughton Road,
Oxford OX2 6UZ.
April 17.

PR in town halls

From Councillor Sir Jeremy Beecham

Sir, To read Peter Riddell's column, "Only PR will sort out town hall trouble" (April 8), one would not imagine that the most scandalous abuse of local government power occurred not in a Labour town hall but in Westminster City Council under the leadership of Dame Shirley Porter.

Ethical lapses, though fortunately rare, are intolerable and are not confined to any one political party or type of authority. That is why the local government world will welcome the Government's new proposals on ethics and co-operate fully in implementing them.

But whilst the highest standards of probity are a necessary condition of a reinvigorated local democracy, they are not of themselves sufficient. Local councils need to be able to make a difference in their local communities, addressing the local as well as the national political agenda.

An element of proportional representation, in addition to retaining the present ward-based system for most members of councils, could indeed help address the problem of one-party councils of whatever colour, and provide a general incentive across an authority for a greater turnout. What is crucial, however, is that accountability should be reinforced.

The Government's proposals on local government finance fall short of what is required to reduce dependence on central government grant and to create a more transparent and understandable system at local level.

To attain these objectives, the requisites are the removal of capping, the return of the non-domestic rate and a recognition that local councils are more than the agents of central government.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BEECHAM
(Leader of the Labour Group),
Local Government Association,
26 Chapter Street, SW1P 4ND.
April 9.

Addressing familiarity

From Dr Anthony Abrahams

Sir, Mrs Joan Zunde (letter, April 14), who is unhappy at being addressed over-familiarly in hospital, would be quite at ease in Oxford. When patients are admitted to any of our hospitals the nurses ask, and enter in the records, how they prefer to be addressed.

Though most of my patients call me "Doctor" appropriately, when I was ill in the John Radcliffe Hospital it was most comforting to be called Anthony.

Others have different views, which are respected.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ABRAHAMS,
Temple Cowley Health Centre,
Temple Road,
Cowley, Oxford OX4 2HL.
April 14.

From Mrs H. Phillips

Sir, It is not only those "well over 65" who have difficulties with the use of first names.

Until recently I worked in a happy government department where senior and junior officers called each other by their first names.

One day a new, young member of staff asked to see me and explained, with some embarrassment, that she had tried very hard to call me by my first name, but she just could not do it. She had been brought up in a culture where older people were to be treated with respect. Please would I let her call me "Mrs Phillips"?

Yours faithfully,
HILARY PHILLIPS,
140 Barnsbury Road,
London N1 0ER.
April 14.

From Mr Peter Hillman

Sir, Arriving at Gatwick airport last November, I was paged to the information desk, where a pleasant assistant about half my age addressed me by my forename.

I completed and submitted one of the "feedback" forms asking for customers' comments, pointing out that, as a civil servant, I would not dream of addressing a member of the public whom I had never met before in such a familiar way, and that perhaps some people might be offended by it.

Unfortunately my comments were not taken seriously enough to warrant a reply.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HILLMAN,
87 Primrose Copse,
Horsham, West Sussex RH12 5PZ.
April 14.

Across the divide

From Mr Ian R. Chapman

Sir, Mr S. F. Stenhouse (letter, April 15) asks how we should measure the generation gap, given the conflict between his feet and inches and his son's metres and centimetres. Let's be British and go for compromise, a mixture of the two systems — in which case I am 6ft 2.54cm tall, weighing in at . . . well, never mind!

There is a serious side to this, of course. None of the children in British schools today has been taught to measure in feet and inches or in stones and pounds. Yet ask them their height and the answer is invariably given as, say, "five foot seven" or their weight as "seven and a half stone". They must find it very confusing.

Surely we should have grasped the metric nettle much tighter when these measurements were first introduced. Perhaps we can encourage a change of thinking by gradually having road distances posted in kilometres instead of miles.

Yours faithfully,
IAN R. CHAPMAN,
39 Greenhayes Avenue,
Banstead, Surrey SM7 2JJ.
April 15.

Weekend Money letters, page 55

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Lottery funding

From Mr Wyn Jones

Sir, Since the Heritage Lottery Fund came into being it has generously funded many country churches in need of repair and refurbishment.

This has been a wholly welcome commitment, bringing much-needed funds into small communities which otherwise had no possibility of raising such sums and prolonging the life of historic churches as well as giving employment to craftsmen.

I was therefore appalled to read last week in the Heritage Lottery Fund's newsletter "update" (issue 11) that this source of funding is to be reduced from £450 million last year to around £250 million, as a direct consequence of the creation of a sixth good cause to fund health and education/training projects, which should in my view be funded by the taxpayer.

It seems likely that a substantial proportion of this money will be channelled into our cities. Thus, reallocation of lottery funds would seem to be yet another blow to the rural economy.

If I needed proof of my suspicions, it arrived this morning in the shape of a refusal from the Heritage Lottery Fund to grant funds to refurbish our medieval parish church.

Yours (sadly),
WYN JONES,
Blaencilgoed House,
Ludchurch, Narberth,
Pembrokeshire SA67 8LA.
April 14.

Japan's chance to make amends

From Colonel P. S. W. Dean

Sir, You report on difficulties over an apology by Emperor Akihito (April 15). To agonise over how to say sorry is demeaning and smacks of insincerity. This is surely not the way in which Japan wishes, in the words of the ambassador, "to highlight Japan's friendship with and goodwill towards this country", with which the Foreign Office claims to have a "special relationship".

To say sorry takes courage, but the beneficial results in standing and respect for those who do can be very rewarding. The Foreign Office has noted that apologies were made by the Emperor during state visits to Malaysia and Indonesia in 1991. As this will therefore not be a precedent, and as it is the overwhelming desire by both our countries to end this nagging chapter in Anglo-Japanese relations, I hope that the Emperor will seize this opportunity to do the same.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DEAN
(Military Attaché, Tokyo, 1960-64),
Foresters, Tostock,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP30 9PJ.
April 15.

Emperor's honour

From Mr K. C. E. Ellison Davis

Sir, In his report of April 9 Alan Hamilton observed that the award of the Garter to non-European heads of state has "always been sparing".

He could also have added that the appointment of certain non-Christian monarchs (eg, two Shahs of Persia, one in 1873 and one in 1902; two Sultans of Turkey, 1876 and 1886; and three successive Emperors of Japan, 1905, 1912 and 1929) gradually caused the order to lose a good deal of its essentially Christian character.

All these appointments were made for political reasons and were carried through because the Garter had become largely a political honour. The unwritten rule was that no appointments were made by the Sovereign unless they had been recommended by the Prime Minister.

In 1946, with George VI having indicated his wish that the Garter should be in the personal gift of the Sovereign, the Attlee Government agreed that thenceforth it should be a non-political honour and should be conferred by the Sovereign without any formal advice from the Prime Minister.

Emperor Hirohito automatically forfeited his (1929) companionship after Pearl Harbor. He was restored to it during his state visit in 1971. Had the regulations then been amended accordingly? Whatever, it is hard not to feel that in 1971 a "non-political honour" was conferred for political reasons; and it is equally hard not to feel the same will be done in May when Emperor Akihito is made a member.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH ELLISON DAVIS,
Brahms Straat 2,
1077 HG Amsterdam.
April 15.

Sir Ronald Millar

From Mr Jonathan Hill

Sir, How Ronnie Millar, that most civilised and decent of men, someone who always understood the importance of timing and contrast, would have chuckled at his obituary appearing on the same day as that of Pol Pot (April 17).

Everyone who worked with Ronnie knows that he always had the last laugh and — almost always — the last word.

As usual, he has done it again.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN HILL
(Political Secretary to the Prime Minister, 1992-94),
Dodington House,
Breamore, nr Fordingbridge,
Hampshire SP6 2EH.
April 17.

Passing interest

From Mrs Susan Gollop

Sir, I find even greater scope for optimism in reading the obituaries than Mr David Hamilton and Mr Brian Taylor (letters, April 10), who use them as an indicator of longevity.

As a woman reading these columns, it is heartening to note how few of us die.

Yours,
SUE GOLLOP,
26 Grange Street,
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 5NB.
suegollop@compuserve.com
April 10.

The winter's tail

From Mrs M. Robertson Smith

Sir, Last week, owing to extensive flooding at Stratford-upon-Avon, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre cancelled two performances of *The Tempest*.

Next week, so I understand, they plan to show a play called *Bad Weather*.

Yours sincerely,
MARJORIE ROBERTSON SMITH,
1 Bishop's Wood,
Cuddesdon, Oxford OX44 9HA.
April 16.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 17: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Sir Willaim Gladstone, Bt, (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Clywd) at the Memorial Service for Colonel Ellis Evans (formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Clywd) which was held in St Asaph Cathedral, Clywd, this afternoon.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mrs Noreen Edwards.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-chief, The Royal Canadian Regiment, was represented by Lieutenant General Jack Vance (Colonel) at the Funeral of Colonel Frank Klenavic which was held in the Anglican Chapel, Canadian Forces Base Kingston, Canada, this afternoon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 17: The Prince Edward this afternoon left Royal Air Force Northolt for Lisbon, Portugal.

His Royal Highness, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this evening attended a Reception and Dinner at Quinta Patinho, Lisbon, in support of the Award.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer is in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 17: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, today attended the National Youth Sailing Championship at Looe Sailing Club, Buller Street, East Looe, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall (the Lady Mary Holborow).

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 17: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Queen Margaret College, this afternoon received Dr Joan Stringer (Principal).

Birthdays

Today

The Hon Michael Beloff, QC, President, Trinity College, Oxford, 56; Dr Clive Booth, former Vice-Chancellor, Oxford Brookes University, 55; Mr Alan Devereux, former chairman, Scottish Tourist Board, 65; the Marquess of Donegall, 82; Mr Nick Farr-Jones, rugby player, 36; Mr Brian Fuller, former Commandant, Fire Service College, 62; Mr David Gee, former director, Friends of the Earth, 51; Sir Peter Hordern, former MP, 69; Mr Peter Jeffrey, actor, 69; Mr Christopher Lawrence, managing director, London Philharmonic Orchestra, 48; Miss Catherine Malfitano, soprano, 50; Lord Mason of Barnsley, 74; Miss Hayley Mills, actress, 52; the Very Rev Dominic Milroy, OSB, former Headmaster, Ampleforth College, 66; Baroness Platt of Writtle, 75; the Right Rev Dr E.J.K. Roberts, former Bishop of Ely, 90; Sir Teddy Taylor, MP, 61; Sir Edgar Unsworth, former Chief Justice of Gibraltar, 92; Mr V.E. Watts, Principal, Grey College, Durham University, 60.

Tomorrow

The Earl of Annandale and Hartfell, 57; Mr William Baillie, president, Royal Scottish Academy, 75; the Most Rev Luigi Barbarito, GCVO, former Apostolic Nuncio, 76; Miss Sue Barker, tennis player and sports presenter, 42; Mr Dickie Bird, cricket umpire, 65; Mr Antonio Carluccio, restaurateur, 61; Mr Algy Cluff, chairman and chief executive, Cluff Mining, 58; Mr Adrian Coles, director-general, Building Societies Association, 44; Mr Tim Curry, actor, 52; Mr Glyn England, director, the Wind Fund, 77; Mr Trevor Francis, footballer, 44; Lord Justice Henry, 67; Dr Sir John Horlock, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Open University, 70; Mr G.B. Inglis, former senior partner, Slaughter and May, 65; Mrs Margo MacDonald, broadcaster and former MP, 55; Mr Dudley Moore, actor and composer, 63; Mr Garfield Morgan, actor, 67; Mr Murray Perahia, pianist, 51; Mr Richard Phelps, pentathlete, 37; Lord Justice Roch, 64; M Michel Roux, chef and restaurateur, 57; Mr Wilf Stevenson, former director, British Film Institute, 51; Miss Bridget Towle, Chief Guide, the Guide Association, 56; the Hon Michael Trend, MP, 46; Miss Ruby Wax, actress and comedian, 45; Mr Philip Wroughton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, 65.

Schools

Godstowe Preparatory School
To mark the occasion of Margaret Elder's retirement from Godstowe School after 27 years, there will be an Old Godstowe's Reunion Party for all former pupils and staff in the evening of Friday, July 3, 1998. For further details and information please contact: Rovianne Matovu, 31 Britten House, Britten Street, London SW3 3UB: Tel: 0171 351 1143 or E-mail: headmistress@godstowe.org

Moira House, Eastbourne
Summer Term begins tomorrow and ends on Saturday, July 4.

The new School Knights (Head Girls) are Katherine Mellor (formerly of Moira House Junior School) and Leonie Watson (formerly of Derwent Lodge, Tunbridge Wells).The new Standard Bearers (Prefects) are: Andrea Bailey (formerly of Moira House Junior School), Aneesha Bhunjun (formerly of Moira House Junior School), Nicola Dyer (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Kate Enefer (formerly of St Bede's School, Eastbourne), Beth Gibson (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Jennifer Rowe (formerly of Moira House Junior School, Eastbourne), Claire Smalley (formerly of Moira House Junior School), Amber Walder (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne) and Vanja Willis (formerly of St Bede's School, Eastbourne).

Moira House Choral Society will perform some famous Opera Choruses in a Concert on Saturday, May 9 Founders Day, and the Moira House Old Girls' Club Reunion is on Saturday, June 27, when the Guest Speaker will be Mrs Sari Conway, Chief Executive of Eastbourne Borough Council.

Reed's School
Summer Term begins on Sunday, April 19, with Akshay Dosaj as Captain of School and Nicholas Darke, Captain of Cricket. An Open Evening will be held on Wednesday, May 13, and Open Morning on Saturday, May 16. The Choral Society will perform their Summer Term Concert on Sunday, May 17, and Old Reedonian Reunion Day will be held on Saturday, June 27. Term ends on Saturday, July 4, with Speech Day when R.G. Smethurst, M.A., Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, will present the prizes.

ALAN WELLER



Natasha Singarayer and Justin Alford, who are to be married on July 25 at Westminster Cathedral

Dinners

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the hosts at a dinner held last night at City Hall. The Italian Ambassador and Signora Galli, the High Commissioner for India and the Belgian Ambassador and Mrs Willems were among those present.

The Textile Institute
Mr Clemens N Nathan, a Director of The Cunart Company Limited, was the host at a dinner of The Textile Institute held at the Athenaeum on Friday, April 17. Among the guests were:

Dr Miyoshi Okamoto (The Okamoto Research Laboratory, Toray Industries Inc.), Professor Kanji Kajiwara (Kyoto Institute of Technology), Mr Kiyoo Tani (Mitsubishi Rayon Co.), Mr Terry Hennessey (Director General, The Textile Institute) and Mr Walter Sondheim (Chairman, Professional and Educational Affairs Committee, The Textile Institute).

Service luncheon

Trucial Oman Scouts
The annual luncheon for Officers of the Trucial Oman Levies, Trucial Oman Scouts and the Union Defence Force was held yesterday at the Army and Navy Club.

Service dinners

Royal Warwickshire Regiment
Lieutenant-General Sir Jeremy Reilly presided at the annual dinner of the Regimental Dinner Club of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (Sixth Foot) held last night at the Shire Hall, Warwick.

RAF Oxford and Cambridge Society
Professor Christopher Calladine, FRS, of Cambridge University, and Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Strike Command, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the RAF Oxford and Cambridge Society held last night at Peterhouse, Cambridge. Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss presided.

Memorial services

Colonel James Ellis Evans
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Sir William Gladstone, Lord-Lieutenant of Clwyd, at a memorial service of thanksgiving for the life of Colonel James Ellis Evans, a former Lord-Lieutenant of Clwyd, held yesterday in St Asaph Cathedral. The Prince of Wales was represented by Mrs Noreen Edwards.

The Very Rev Kerry Goulstone, Dean of St Asaph, officiated. Dr T.B. Stephen, of the Denbighshire branch of the British Legion, and Sir William read the lessons. The Very Rev Raymond Renowden paid tribute and the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, Archbishop of Wales, pronounced the blessing.

Representatives of Flintshire County Council, Denbighshire County Council, Wrexham Borough Council and the Chief Constable of North Wales were among those present.

Requiem Mass

Father John Coventry, SJ
Requiem Mass for Father John Coventry, SJ, former Jesuit Provincial, Rector of Beaumont College, Professor at Heythrop College, London University, and Master of St Edmund's House, Cambridge, was celebrated by Father James Crampsey, Provincial of the British Province of the Society of Jesus, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, yesterday. He was assisted by Father Peter Griffiths, SJ, Father Robert Murray, SJ, and Deacon Geoffrey Cook.

Mr John Coventry, nephew, and Miss Veronica Adnitt read the lessons. Father Murray also read the gospel and preached the homily.

Royal engagements

Today: The Duke of Edinburgh, as patron, Cornwall Rugby Football Union, will attend the county championship final at Twickenham, Middlesex, at 2.30.

Tomorrow: The Princess Royal, as president, will attend the annual Bafta film awards at Grosvenor House, at 6.25.

Royal Institute of Oil Painters

Mr Richard Manwaring Bines, MA, has been elected President of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters. He becomes the 12th President since the Institute was founded in 1882.

Anniversaries

Today: Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate 1921, died at Princeton, New Jersey, 1955.

Tomorrow: George Gordon Byron, 6th Baron Byron, poet, died at Missolonghi, Greece, 1824.

Marriages

The Hon Alexander Bertie and Miss Catherine Cameron
The marriage took place yesterday at the Church of All Saints, Little Shelford, Cambridge, of the Hon Alexander Bertie, younger son of the Earl and Countess of Lindsey and Abingdon, to Miss Catherine Cameron, only daughter of the late Professor Gordon C. Cameron, of Cambridge and of Mrs Cameron, of Little Shelford. The Rev S. Taylor officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Niall Campbell Cameron, was attended by Arabella Cameron, Clarissa Cameron and the Hon Willoughby Bertie. Lord Norreys was best man. A reception was held in Emmanuel College and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr D.G. Bamber and Miss P.O. Cheung
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 4, in St Benedict's Abbey, Ealing, London, of Mr Damian Gardner Bamber, son of Dr David Bamber and Mrs Elisabeth Bamber, to Miss Penny Oi-Ying Cheung, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Dominic Cheung.

A reception was held at the Great Conservatory, Syon Park, Brentford, Middlesex.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. Berry and Miss S.J. Kitley
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs Mervyn Berry, of Tetbury, Gloucestershire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Kitley, of Ashtead, Surrey.

Mr P.M.B. Blakstad and Miss A.C. King-Farlow
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs M.B. Blakstad, of East Meon, and Alice, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles King-Farlow, of Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Mr P.J.J. Clegg and Miss F.J.E. Cass
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr Jonathan Clegg, of West Hampstead, London, and of Mrs George Chesterton, of Malvern, Worcestershire, and Fleur, youngest daughter of Sir Geoffrey and Lady Cass, of Cambridge.

Mr R.A. Cornwell and Miss J.L. Carroll
The engagement is announced between Rodney, only son of Mrs Wendy Hitchens and stepson of Mr Robert Hitchens, of Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, and Julie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman R. Carroll, of Ewell, Epsom, Surrey.

Mr J.D. Day and Miss C.H.W. Derby
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Jack Day, of Guildford, Surrey, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Derby, of Fazakerley, Liverpool.

Mr N.J. Halton and Miss S.E. Connolly
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Halton, of Cheltenham, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Connolly, of Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.

Mr C.P. Gill and Dr R.J. Andrew
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mrs S.P. Gill and the late Mr K.S. Gill, of Shropshire, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Andrew, of Sheffield.

Mr J. Kilroy and Miss E. Godfrey
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Kilroy, of Oakley, Bedford, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mrs Janice Godfrey, of Toddington, Bedford and the late Mr Paul Godfrey.

Mr N.D.B. King and Miss H.E.J. Thornhill
The engagement is announced between Nicolas, elder son of Wing Commander and Mrs Timothy King, of Hampton Wick, Middlesex, and Harriet, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Thornhill, of Winthorpe, Nottinghamshire.

Mr S.J. Kunzer and Miss V.G.E.H. Noel
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr Paul Kunzer and the late Mrs Kunzer, of Shincliffe, Durham, and Victoria, daughter of Captain and Mrs Gerard Noel, of Stratford St Mary, Suffolk.

Mr R.W.H. Lawson and Miss J.A. Smith
The engagement is announced between Ralph William Henry, elder son of Mr David Lawson and of Dr Annette Lawson, of London, and Jane Ainley, only daughter of Mr Tony Smith and of Mrs Hilary Wills, of Sheffield, Yorkshire.

Mr E.J.H. Molesworth and Miss C.K.M. Russell
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Molesworth, of Framfield, East Sussex, and Claire, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Russell, also of Framfield, East Sussex.

Mr J.W.R. Corden-Lloyd and Miss S.K. Dodgson
The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of the late Lieutenant Colonel I.D. Corden-Lloyd, OBE, MC, The Royal Green Jackets, and of Mrs Douglas Strachan, of North Hill Farm, West Camel, Yeovil, Somerset, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Dodgson, of Rappele House, Radipole Village, Weymouth, Dorset.

Mr R.J. Nuttall and Miss E.E.J. Craig
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Dr and Mrs Derek Nuttall, of Dodleston, Cheshire, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Craig, of Chester.

Mr W.G. Osborne-Young and Miss G.M. Agnew-Somerville
The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Osborne-Young, of Pensax, Worcestershire, and Geraldine, younger daughter of Sir Quentin and Lady Agnew-Somerville, of Ramsey, Isle of Man.

Mr M.R.C. Stroyan and Miss C.A.M. Busby
The engagement is announced between Fred, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Stroyan, of Bridgend of Teith, Doune, Perthshire, and Kitty, daughter of Mr C.R. Busby, of London, and of Mrs A.M. Busby, of Triscombe, Somerset.

Mr C.J.H. Wilson and Miss S.J. Sutton-Scott-Tucker
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs J.J.H. Wilson, of Ixworth Thorpe, Suffolk, and Sophia, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.M. Sutton-Scott-Tucker, of Riversbridge, Dartmouth, Devon.

PRINCESS COMFORTS SURVIVORS

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday visited two Sheffield hospitals where 41 of those injured in Saturday's tragedy are being treated

During lengthy vists to the Royal Hallamshire, which the Prince opened ten years ago, and the Northern General hospital, the couple spoke to survivors on the wards and some of the 15 in intensive care. Liverpool's first team also made a poignant return to Sheffield, laying a wreath at the Leppings Lane end of Hillsborough, where 94 fans died.

The team, led by Kenny Dalglish, its manager, spent more than three hours in the town, much of it at the two hospitals.

As a result of the disaster, the Government is determined to change the nature of football-watching in Britain by forcing all main Football League grounds to convert to all-seater accommodation. The decision was taken by a group of ministers at Downing Street yesterday morning without waiting for the result of the independent inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster announced later to MPs by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

The inquiry, to be chaired by Lord Justice Taylor, will have all-embracing terms of reference to examine the reasons for the disaster, in which 94 spectators were crushed to death.

ON THIS DAY

April 18, 1989

Within two days of the Hillsborough disaster in which 94 people died the Government had announced plans to force all big football clubs to convert stadiums into all-seat accommodation.

Findings of the separate police inquiry into decisions which resulted in a last-minute surge of fans into the central section of the Leppings Lane end after the opening of a security gate will be fed into the main inquiry to ensure no hold-up or unnecessary duplication . . .

Mr Peter Wright, the South Yorkshire chief constable, whose force has been bitterly criticized for the way it handled crowd control at the game, defended the actions of his officers . . .

The crush of supporters was so great that a police horse and its rider were reported to have been lifted clear of the ground. As the throng worsened, officers trying to control the supporters grew alarmed that a wall might collapse with possible loss of life.

Witnesses said a police officer told the steward to open the 16ft-wide gate. He refused but eventually handed over the keys. An officer had said that opening the gate was a life-or-death decision. "Over the radio, I heard, 'The wall is going, the wall is going'."

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Anyone whose teaching is merely his own seeks his own glory; but if anyone seeks the glory of him who sent him, he is sincere and there is nothing false in him. John 7 : 18

BIRTHS

BISKIN - On 2nd April at The Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Abby, a son, George Alexander Michael, a brother for Antony.

COSTELLO - On 4th April, to Susie (née Clarke) and John, a son, Charles Patrick Oliver, a brother for William.

DELLOW - On April 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Alison (née Barnes) and Richard, a son, Oliver, a brother for Benjamin.

DIMITROFF - On 14th April, to Monica (née Lansdon) and Brian, a son, Sebastian.

EYLES - On Easter Sunday 12th April 1998, at home, to Michael and Louise (née Johnson) a beautiful daughter, Phoebe Olivia, a sister for Sophie and Emily.

GEARY - On April 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Peggy and Nick, a daughter, Elizabeth Louise, a sister for Emma Pauline.

GWYER - On April 15th 1998 at Royal Berkshire Hospital, to Julia (née Holt) and Michael, a son, David John.

HITCHCOCK - On 10th April 1998 at Nottingham City Hospital, to Rachael (née Bradbury) and Gavin, a beautiful daughter named Laura Cydney Hitchcock.

HUNTER - On April 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Marie-Josee and Duncan, a daughter, Héloïse, a sister for Maximillian and Léonore.

JOHNSTONE - On 4th April, to Anna-Maree (née Scott) and Ian, a son, Hugo Ross Fairbairn.

LYON - On Good Friday at The Royal Free, to Elizabeth (née Laing) and Ian, a daughter, Eleanor Mary Francesca.

MEEDER - On Monday 6th April 1998, to Rosanne (née Seal) and Oscar, a son, Leo Dexter Jefferson.

PRITCHARD - On 16th April in Chichester to Steve and Gaby, a beautiful daughter, Beatrice, sister for Ricky and Katie.

RAYMAKERS - See Rice.

RICE - On Thursday April 2nd 1998, to Kate (née Raymakers) and John, a daughter, Lois Elizabeth.

THOMPSON - On 9th April 1998, to Louise and Stuart, their first child, a son, Oscar Louis.

WILSON-GUNN - On 21st March 1998 to Fiona and Michael, a daughter, Florence Barbara Isabella, a sister for Freddie.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

BOYD-BARBER - Keith and Rosemary on 19th April 1958 at St Joseph's, Burwash. Now of The Old Manor, Flore, Northants.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

WHELAN-O'BRIEN - On April 19th 1938, at St Mary's Church, Holly Place, Hampstead, London, Jerome to Ruth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BOYS-STORIES - Claude, Sarah, Richard and Francis would like to thank their friends and relations for the hundreds of letters and cards received on the death of Anne. They are very much appreciated.

DEATHS

ANGUS - Robert (Robin) Gurney Angus, on 15th April 1998 at Ayr Hospital after a short illness bravely borne. Dear husband of Lil, dearly loved father of Daniel and Alice, fond father-in-law of Nikki, devoted grandfather to Emma, brother of Nigel, Penelope and Prue. Funeral Service at St Cuthberts Church, Prestwick on Tuesday 21st April at 2.15 pm. Interment thereafter in Monkton Churchyard.

BIRDSALL - 14th April 1998 at Darlington, peacefully after a long illness, Irene (née Adams), wife of Professor Neville Birdsall, mother of Richard, Alison, (Wightman), Jonathon and Katherine (May). Funeral with Requiem at Holy Trinity, Darlington, at 12 noon on 22nd April followed by cremation. No flowers. Donations to St. Teresa's Hospice, Darlington.

COLEMAN The Reverend Frederick Philip (Percy), quietly, after a long illness, on April 14th, in his 88th year. Requiem at St. Botolph's Church, Aldgate, Saturday 25th April at 11am.

ETHELSTON - Anthony Andrew Peel passed away peacefully on 16th April 1998, beloved father of Michael and father-in-law of Wendy, much loved grandfather of Deryck, Karen, Michelle, David and Peter. Funeral arrangements later. No letters please.

FLETCHER - David Leslie suddenly at his home in Capetown on 7th April 1998 in his 80th year. Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held in the Church in Gordons Bay, Cape Province, South Africa at 11 am on 29th April 1998.

GILL - Ruth Mary, of Speen, on 15th April, aged 83. Enquiries to 01296 482 041.

HARDY - Audrey peacefully on 15th April 1998 at Forest Place Nursing Home, near her home in Loughton, Essex, after a brave struggle with monstrous strokes. Darling adored wife of Major Ronald Hardy, mother of Sue and Robin, grandmother of Mark, James, Sarah, Lucie, Sophie and Laura. Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, Loughton on Monday 27th April at 2 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Stroke Association c/o Warriner & Sons, 32 Church Hill, Loughton, tel: (0181) 508-1752.

HERBERT - Peter Gerald, on April 9, 1998, in Cambridge, after an active and interesting life in the British Council in India, South America and Kenya, lovingly shared with Helen, his first wife, and their children Clare, Shona, John and Lorna (Edinburgh) and with Helen, his second wife, in Cambridge. Funeral at 10.30 am, Thursday, April 23, at Cambridge Crematorium. We miss you Dad.

LEGGATT - Antony Claire on April 11th 1998, peacefully after a short illness. Greatly loved and respected wife of David, devoted mother to Alison, Judi and Andy, proud grandmother to Claire, James, Christopher, Jonathan, Jessica, Nicola and Amy, and great-grandmother to Eleanor, dedicated secretary to the Greek Dance Association, and serene example to all who knew her. Funeral service Friday April 24th at 1.45pm at St Lukes, Charlton, S.E.7 followed by cremation. No flowers please, donations to Greenwich Theatre Appeal Fund, National Trust, Save the Children Fund. Enquiries to Nash Funeral Service 0181-294-0700

LLOYD - Edward Robert, OBE, on 12th April at home in Chelsea, aged 86. Former British Council representative. Dearly loved father and grandfather. Funeral at St. Simon Zelotes Church, Moore Street, Chelsea, at 2pm on Wednesday 22nd April, followed by cremation at Putney Vale.

PAGE - Ken, one of the most beloved executives in the global television industry, passed away April 6th, 1998 in Toronto, aged 69. Born in England, during his career he worked in Switzerland, London, Los Angeles and Toronto and held a number of key positions. He is survived by his wives Pat and Anna, his daughter Kendall, son S., daughter-in-law Deborah, son-in-law Graham, brother Peter, and his many personal and business friends who meant so much to him. Memorial celebrations are planned in Toronto, Los Angeles and in London. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or to a charity of the donor's choice.

POND - Godfrey on April 15th at home. Funeral on April 22nd details from Evershed Bros. Tel: 0181 874 1781

SIDDALL - Helen, aged 84 years on April 16th at Burston Hall, Staffordshire, after a long illness bravely and patiently borne. Funeral details later. Enquiries to Forrester Brothers Funeral Services, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Telephone: 01782 313874.

SMALLEY - Joan Tierney Clifford (late of Hong Kong, Rome and Geneva) passed away peacefully on 12th April at The Bournemouth Nuffield Hospital aged 86. A much loved sister, aunt and great-aunt. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral at Bournemouth Crematorium on Friday 24th April at 2 pm. Flowers or donations if desired to British Heart Foundation c/o A.V. Eldout Funeral Directors, 417/419 Lymington Road, Highcliffe-on-Sea, Dorset BH23 5EN.

STRICKLAND - Joan Yvonne (née Cargill) on April 10th 1998 at Eastbourne after a short illness aged 69. Previously of Hastings and Trollflotes. Widow of John and much respected mother of Nicholas, Timothy, Charles and the late Andrew. Funeral Service at Warbleton Parish Church on Wednesday April 22nd at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to The National Asthma Campaign or The Kit Wilson Trust (Animal Rescue) c/o Hellham Funeral Service, 11 Station Road, Hellham, East Sussex. Telephone: 01323 440909.

WHYBRAY - Roger Norman, Raymond Professor, aged 74, beloved husband of Mary, suddenly on 15th April 1998. Requiem Mass 11.00 am at St Peter's in Ely, Cambridgeshire on Tuesday 28th April followed by cremation at Cambridge. A memorial service will take place later. Family flowers only. Donations to See Ryder House, Old Palace, Ely. Further details from Ely Funeral Service. 01353 666566

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

GRAY - Lawrence Edward, 17 July 1936 - 18 April 1994: with love today and always, from wife Beryl, daughters Nicky, Jackie and Denise, and grandchildren Oliver and Jemima.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - A Service in memory of M.R.P.S (JADDEE) Lucas will be held on Thursday 28th May at twelve noon at St. Luke's Church Sydney Street, Chelsea.

TAYLOR - Geoffrey A. 2/4/1909 - 18/4/1995. Remembered with much love, Mary.

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TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ADDIS, Molli Sujata late of Flat 9, Brompton Lodge, 9-11 Cromwell Road, London SW7 2JA who died on 19th August 1997; particulars to Maxwell Batley (Staffordshire), 27 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PA on or before the 19th June 1998

DEANE, JOHN CALES of Flat 21, Elizabeth Hart Court, Mayfield Road, Weybridge, Surrey died on 9 February 1997 particulars to DIXON WARD Solicitors of 16 THE GREEN, RICHMOND, SURREY TW9 1QD before 19 June 1998.

GIBBS, ALICE MARGARET (otherwise MARGARET JOWER) of 53 Cardinal Avenue, Kingston, Surrey died on 8 August 1997 particulars to DIXON WARD Solicitors of 16 THE GREEN, RICHMOND, SURREY, TW9 1QD before 19 June 1998.

GOCOOL, SHRIPURSHOTTAM of 26 Hanbury Road, London, N17 9RJ died on 27 November 1997 particulars to DOWER RAXTER Solicitors of 229/235 CAMDEN HIGH STREET, LONDON, NW1 7BU before 19 June 1998.

GRANT, PAULINE MIRIAM of Flat 14, 56 Saint Georges Drive, London, SW1 died on 11 November 1997 particulars to DOWER RAXTER Solicitors of 229/235 CAMDEN HIGH STREET, LONDON, NW1 7BU before 19 June 1998.

VENABLES, The Rev ARTHUR PETER of 4 Wharf Court, Iver Lane, Cowley, Middx died on 28 November 1997 particulars to DIXON WARD Solicitors of 16 THE GREEN, RICHMOND, SURREY TW9 1QD before 19 June 1998.

WINKLES, BEKTA (otherwise BEKTAS) of 35 Selsdon Chantry Park, Sanderstead, Surrey, Merchant, Surrey died on 14 August 1997 particulars to DIXON WARD Solicitors of 16 THE GREEN, RICHMOND, SURREY TW9 1QD before 19 June 1998.

LEGAL NOTICES

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Staff Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (1974)
("the Scheme")
Notice under section 27 Trustee Act 1925

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 27 Trustee Act 1925 that any person having any interest in the above-named Occupational Pension Scheme is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his or her claim or interest to the undersigned on behalf of the Trustees of the Scheme by 19th June 1998 after which date the Trustees will distribute the assets of the Scheme among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to claims and interest of which they had notice and will not, as respect to the assets so distributed, be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not then have had notice.

NOTE: Not forming part of this notice, if you are a Member of the Scheme and are already receiving pensions you need not respond.

Miss S M Goulds, Independent Pension Trustee Limited, Bewater House, 15 St. Botolph Street, London EC3A 7EE.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE SAVOY HOTEL PLC

(the "Issuer")

(a company incorporated with limited liability under the laws of England and Wales)

NOTICE OF A MEETING

of the holders of the outstanding £450,000 4 per cent. First Mortgage Perpetual Debenture Stock (the "Stockholders" and the "Stock" respectively)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Stockholders convened by the Issuer will be held at Princess Ida Room, Savoy Hotel, Strand, London on 28th April 1998 at 3.00 p.m. (London time) for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolution which will be proposed as an Extraordinary Resolution in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed dated 13th May 1893 between The Savoy Hotel, Limited and The Law Debenture Corporation Limited, as supplemented by Supplemental Trust Deeds dated 24th June 1903, 24th March 1910 and 12th March 1940 between, *inter alia*, the same parties, securing the Stock:

EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION

"THAT this meeting of the holders of those of the £450,000 4 per cent. First Mortgage Perpetual Debenture Stock of The Savoy Hotel PLC presently outstanding (the "Stock" and the "Issuer" respectively) constituted by the Trust Deed (the "Principal Trust Deed") dated 13th May 1893 between The Savoy Hotel, Limited and The Law Debenture Corporation Limited (now The Law Debenture Corporation p.l.c.) (the "Trustee"), as supplemented by Supplemental Trust Deeds (the "Supplemental Trust Deeds" and, together with the Principal Trust Deed, the "Trust Deed") dated 24th June 1903, 24th March 1910 and 12th March 1940 between, *inter alia*, the same parties, hereby:

(1) sanctions and approves the compulsory redemption of all of the outstanding Stock by the Issuer at 110 per cent. of its principal amount, together with accrued interest (the "Redemption Amount") on the fifth business day in London following the date on which this resolution is passed;

(2) sanctions and authorises every variation, release or compromise of the rights of the holders of the Stock (the "Stockholders") and the Trustee against the Issuer and its assets, whether or not such rights arise under the Trust Deed, involved in or resulting from the implementation of paragraph (1) of this resolution, such that on payment of the Redemption Amount in full pursuant to paragraph (1) of this resolution, the Stockholders shall cease to have any rights under or in respect of the Trust Deed or the Stock; and

(3) authorises and requests the Trustee to concur in the implementation of this resolution and to execute and do all such deeds, instruments, acts and things that may be necessary to give effect to this resolution and declares that the Trustee shall have no liability to the Stockholders for its acts or omissions in relation thereto."

This Notice is given by:
The Savoy Hotel PLC
1 Savoy Hill
London WC2R 0BP

Dated 18th April 1998

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171-481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

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OBITUARIES

FRED DAVIS

Fred Davis, OBE, snooker player, died on April 15 aged 84. He was born on August 13, 1913.

It was the proud boast of Fred Davis that he never undertook a single day's work in his life. Playing billiards and snooker for a living did not count as work in his opinion. It was his passion, his all-abiding love, and to describe those many thousands of hours on the green baize as work would have been ridiculous to him.

Although he had been the winner of the world snooker championship in 1948 and 1949 and every year from 1951 to 1956, one of Davis's proudest moments came in 1980 when, at the age of 67, he finally emulated his elder brother Joe by becoming world billiards champion. Three years earlier he had been appointed OBE for services to billiards and snooker and was the first player to be so honoured.

Joe, the more famous of the two brothers, had retired in 1964 and before then Fred had always lived in his shadow, even though he was the only player to beat him on level terms. It was a feat he managed four times in all, although he also suffered countless defeats at Joe's hands through the decades.

Born in Whittingham Moor, near Chesterfield, Fred was 12 years younger than Joe and because of the age difference they shared very little of their childhood. Fred, however, was much motivated by Joe's success and was determined to emulate him. Without any formal coaching from his elder brother he never quite succeeded in this ambition, but he certainly joined him as one of the leading figures in both games.

He began playing on a miniature table at his home. Nobody so much as told him the rules but he nevertheless quickly picked up the basics and at the age of 12 was taken by his father to play at Burroughs Hall, London, in the Boys' Under-16 championship. He reached the semi-finals but impressed nobody, least of all his family who were accustomed to Joe performing and usually winning at the very highest level. He did not file an entry for the event for another three years, when he returned to win it comfortably.

Of an easygoing nature and certainly not one for endless hours of practice, Fred was often written off by his brother as neither dedicated nor ambitious enough. Joe's main advice was the strong suggestion that Fred should wipe the grin off his face when he was practising.

As a result of working in the family's billiard hall in Chesterfield, Davis automatically became a professional on his 16th birthday. But Joe held such a low opinion of his younger brother's game that he was reluctant to allow Fred to enter the junior professional billiards championship. Despite Joe's reservations, Fred not only entered but won the event on all three of the occasions it was held.

There were limited opportunities for club exhibitions in those early days and £1 was the fee for his first. With professional billiards disappearing from public view in tandem with the loss of its popularity, and being fast superseded by snooker, Davis was close to the top of the three-ball game at just the wrong time. He did not surface again as a competitor until the 1937 world professional snooker championship.

By this time he was self-consciously trying to hide the fact that he was suffering from myopia. He could only tell the time by the large clock which stood in his billiard hall by standing directly beneath it. Therefore, he found peering at snooker balls a great deal harder still. Consequently, on his debut in the world championship he lost 17-14 in the first round to Bill Withers, a Welshman who had done little before and achieved little afterwards. Joe was so furious at this affront to family honour that he soundly berated Fred for losing. He punished Withers even more severely, crushing him in the next round 30-1.



Fred overcame his shyness sufficiently to consult an optician and eventually became the first professional to play with the special swivel-jointed, bifocal spectacles which became the saviour of many a player with imperfect eyesight. His form improved rapidly and in 1940 he reached the world snooker final, giving Joe his closest-ever shave in the championship before being edged only 37-35.

Fred, who had often been told by Joe that he would never beat him, was very near to doing so before the Army took him away for almost the whole of the Second World War.

In the first postwar championship Fred lost in the semi-final to Horace Lindrum, of Australia, but with Joe then retiring from championship play, Fred was installed as strong favourite to overcome Walter Donaldson in the 1947 final. But Donaldson, a dour Scot, had practised for weeks on end to such a degree that he won the final and a surname other than Davis was inscribed on the trophy for the first time since it had been originally presented in 1927.

Fred made amends in 1948 when he defeated Donaldson 84-61 in the final and repeated the victory again to capture the world title, over Donaldson, in 1949, 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954. The last two of his eight world titles, in 1955 and 1956, came with triumphs over John Pulman. In 1957, though, with only four competitors and little remuneration on offer, Davis did not enter the world championship.

In 1958 the event went into abeyance. When it resumed in 1964, on a challenge basis, Davis was twice unsuccessful in regaining the trophy from Pulman and, by the time the championship was revived in a knockout format in 1969, his powers had declined. Even so, Davis had one starring role when snooker broke through as a mainstream television sport. At the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, in 1978 he remarkably reached the semi-finals of the championship at the age of 64.

In 1970 Davis suffered the first of two heart attacks. He had another in 1974 but still came back to reach that year's world championship semi-final where he lost to the eventual winner, Ray Reardon.

In recognition of his services to snooker in this country, Davis was given the captaincy of the England team which competed in the 1979 and 1980 World Team Cup. It was also in 1980 that he finally fulfilled that great boyhood ambition when he challenged and beat Rex Williams for the world billiards title.

Davis continued to compete on the professional circuit until 1992. When he retired, aged 78, he was considered to be the oldest active professional sportsman in the world. In the years of semi-retirement he moved from his Stourport farm, where he oversaw rather than undertook the general work, to Denbigh in North Wales, close to Llandudno where he had lived in the 1950s when his wife ran an hotel in the town.

Davis died in his sleep after being admitted to hospital on Easter Monday following a fall which damaged his shoulder. His wife Sheila predeceased him. He is survived by two daughters.

TREVOR MOUND

Trevor Mound, CVO, OBE, diplomat, died on March 22 aged 67. He was born on July 27, 1930.

TREVOR MOUND was a soldier and diplomat who believed in having fun while serving his country. His personal style came to widest public attention with a BBC documentary in 1985, soon after he became the first British Consul-General in Shanghai since the Cultural Revolution.

In the programme he appeared clad in a specially acquired Sherlock Holmes-style cape and deerstalker, and was driven around in a London taxi. The taxi was the only car in which he could travel comfortably, because of an old back injury, but he also wanted it — against Foreign Office opposition — so that everyone in Shanghai would recognise and respect his status.

Trevor Ernest John Mound was born in Malvern, the son of a policeman. After the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, and Sandhurst he joined the Coldstream Guards and saw service in Malaya during the Emergency. Years later, during his first diplomatic posting in China, a senior Chinese official asked him when he had first done business with China. "Shooting communists in Malaya," he replied. This was hardly diplomatic, but it went down surprisingly well with the Chinese, whose old soldiers love to reminisce with friend or foe alike, particularly over a glass of white spirits.

After Malaya, Mound served with The Parachute Regiment in the Middle East, and it was there that he had the accident which damaged his back permanently. He joined the Diplomatic Service in 1967, and postings followed in Luxembourg, Calcutta and Beirut. He also had stints in London, where he had a particularly distinguished record as Resident Clerk at the Foreign Office. Before leaving for Beirut in 1976, knowing that no decent dentist was likely to be available during a civil war, he had all his teeth extracted.

Confronted by an officious checkpoint officer in Beirut once, he introduced himself and shook hands while swiftly removing the revolver from the officer's holster. He then flamboyantly emptied the cartridges, and as he and his colleague drove through the checkpoint, he said: "He was a horrible little man, but I hope he doesn't try to defend himself with that." There in his hand was the firing pin.

Eventually, at the height of the fighting, it was Mound's job to close down the Embassy. Instructed by London to follow the procedure laid out in the Foreign Office manual, he telegraphed back that he



had already shredded the manual.

In 1978, as China began to open itself to foreign trade, Mound went to Beijing as Commercial Counsellor, and his easy and hospitable manner with both pioneering British businessmen and cautious Chinese officials helped to restart trade between the two nations. He had learnt Chinese in the Army, and his fondness for obscure Chinese proverbs helped him to win his hosts' appreciation.

After two tedious years in Oslo he returned to Chinese affairs in 1984, first as part of the Foreign Office team handling the negotiations over Hong Kong. The Chinese eventually agreed to Shanghai's reopening in 1985. There Mound had frequent dealings with the then Mayor, Jiang Zemin, now President of China.

But the high point of his duties was the organisation of the very successful Shanghai leg of the Queen's state visit to China in 1986. Only in Shanghai was the Queen met by cheering crowds. Princess Margaret also visited Shanghai, and she was so taken with Mound's unique and imaginative style that she promised to visit him in his next post; she did so, in Marseilles, a few years later.

Trevor Mound always inspired loyalty and enthusiasm in his staff, British and local. In Shanghai a reluctant former steelworker was perversely assigned by the authorities to be his cook and boilerman. Within days the tyro was not only producing excellent corned beef hash, but also giving the Consul-General vigorous back massages.

Mound's last diplomatic post was as Consul-General in Marseilles, once again with a London taxi and a wardrobe which made it impossible for any Frenchman in the area not to know who was representing Britain.

When the BBC interviewed him in Shanghai in 1985, Mound said that, when he retired, he thought he would make rather a good butler for an elderly millionairess in Bel Air. He certainly had the ramrod deportment and courtly manners for such a calling, but in the event he retired to Bath, and the nearest he came to butling was to enlist with a friend's escort agency as a dinner companion for businesswomen visiting the city. An interview on *Woman's Hour* about his approach to these escort duties was a tour de force, not least since he felt it would be wrong to spoil his listeners' pleasure by revealing that at the time of the broadcast he had not yet been sent any clients.

He was married only twice, but a bevy of glamorous lady admirers would have been able to provide him with glowing references for the job.

He is survived by two sons.

AHMED ALI

Ahmed Ali, Deputy Director United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service, 1974-79, died in Stockport on March 19 aged 86. He was born on December 12, 1911.

SUCCESSIVELY barrister, diplomat and immigration counsellor in a career which had begun in the service of the Government of India during the Second World War, Ahmed Ali opened UKIAS's office in Manchester and did a great deal to help the Bangladeshi community in the North West of England, as well as members of other Asian communities. He had previously practised law in India and then, after Partition, became a diplomat for Pakistan.

Ahmed Ali was born in Chandpur, then in the eastern part of the Bengal province of India, now in Bangladesh. He took a BA in economics at Calcutta University and followed it with a law degree at Aligarh before coming to London where he was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1944. Returning to India in April 1944, he was in government service as, successively, Assistant Shipping Master for Calcutta and Seamen's Welfare Officer for the port.

From October 1944 he practised in the Calcutta and Sind High Courts until, in 1950, his career changed direction and he became a diplomat for the nascent Pakistan, to which his birthplace had been transferred on Partition in 1947. Over the next 17 years his



diplomatic postings included those of First Secretary in the Pakistan High Commission in London, Consul-General of Pakistan in New York and Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan at the United Nations in New York.

In 1967 his career took a further new direction when he and his family moved to London. He retained business interests in Dhaka and was very much to and fro between London and Pakistan for the next few years; but in 1970 he joined the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service (since 1993 the Immigration Advisory Service) as a counsellor. Based at Dover Castle, he advised a wide range of immigrants, overseas students and foreign visitors to the United Kingdom, also representing immigrants at tribunal hearings. Asked by the UKIAS to open an office for the North West of England, he went to Manchester to begin his long association with the city's Asian community. Even when appointed deputy director of UKIAS — a London-based post — in 1974, he continued to live in Stockport and became a weekly commuter.

He regarded counselling as a round-the-clock job, often giving his home telephone number to those requiring continuing advice and support. After his retirement he continued to take temporary assignments from the Immigration Service.

He is survived by his second wife Joan, whom he married in 1944, and by their son. The son of his first marriage predeceased him.

HELEN JENKINS

Helen Jenkins, television producer, died from breast cancer on April 6 aged 52. She was born on March 19, 1946.

HELEN JENKINS was the epitome of the no-nonsense, behind-the-scenes-journalist who stood for what was the best in BBC programme-making. From 1971 until illness forced her early retirement 25 years later, she worked as a producer for virtually all the mainstream television current affairs programmes, including *Tonight*, *Nationwide*, *The Money Programme*, *Newsnight*, *Panorama*, *Assignment* and, latterly, *Correspondent*.

The producer's often unsung role in current affairs is to organise and direct the filming of the report through to its on-screen completion: at its best, as it often was with Jenkins, it is a splendid team effort, marrying the skills of reporters, presenters, camera crew and film editors; at its more trying it is crisis management, ensuring that the presenter, even if incapable, at least looks good — and Jenkins could carry that off, too, with determination, and not a little scorn.

She made films all over the world, but notably about its troublespots. She filmed in Indonesia on East Timor, on the Ayudha temple crisis in India and, above all, covered the fearful scenes at the Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps as Palestinians were massacred by Christian militia while Israeli forces looked on. Although she was fascinated by the Middle East, and admired Arab peoples and Israelis alike, that episode tested her faith in the Jewish state; during the Gulf War, however, she was fearlessly back there, filming the effects of the Iraqi Scud missile attacks.

Born in Newbridge, Monmouthshire, the second daughter of the local headmaster and his 44-year-old wife, Helen was always proud of her Welshness, although never a nationalist. She was educated at the local grammar



school, and read English and history at the then University College of North Staffordshire. There she edited the student newspaper, and in 1968 she gained a Thomson graduate traineeship on the *South Wales Echo* in Cardiff.

A true child of the Sixties, she went from a vacation job in New York to the anti-Vietnam War protests at the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, and reported vividly on the police beating of the protesters at the behest of Mayor Daley. This won her front-page bylines before even her first day in the office.

Her television career blossomed in the 1970s and 1980s. She started out with BBC Manchester, and by 1975 she had begun her mainstream career at BBC TV's old Lime Grove studios in London. For the next 12 years the BBC's current affairs TV programmes were at the centre of political turbulence, increasingly so during the Thatcher years. Jenkins, although a radical, put her journalistic integrity first. She was fiercely independent, had no time for the posturings of the far Left, and at the outset of the Tory hegemony did not bother to hide her admiration for the new Prime Minister.

But Margaret Thatcher's war on the BBC changed all that, and Jenkins spent much of the rest of her off-screen career fighting what was perhaps a losing battle in defence of quality programmes. She had as many as 23 editors in her career, which may have been because some of them could not stomach her outspoken independence.

When the BBC reforms aping the Tories' artificial market were introduced under John Birt's director-generalship, Jenkins made clear that the combination of ill-informed and sometimes incompetent managers with spineless editors was not to her taste. Work was now going to the lowest tender, often outside the BBC. Jenkins knew the value of the team efforts she was involved in, and regretted the loss of talent and camaraderie that she considered inevitable when in-house teams were broken up. She was deeply concerned about the eroding of production values that all too often ensued.

She stuck to her guns, fighting on the inside to maintain what was best. She was for a while a local branch officer in the National Union of Journalists, and while despising union fantasies she astutely led journalists' protests against insensitive management. Most notably, she admired and supported Mark Tully's attempt to defend the World Service.

She kept part of her life very private. Her marriage ended in separation, but such was her kindness that until recently her former husband lived on in her commune-style home in West London. A byword for casualness in dress, she also took in strays, both human and animal: many who were homeless have her to thank for giving them a chance. Her circle of friends was huge and international, and included the most humble as well as statesmen such as Eduard Shevardnadze.

She drew enormous pleasure from sailing (and restoring) her boat *Eridani* with her long-time partner, David Gwyn Jones, who survives her. She treated her illness with wry humour and scorn, but dismissed as a cliché the idea that she "battled" against it. "You do what the doctors tell you," she told her sister Bronwen James, whose novel *Dilys at Large* catches much of the character of this larger than life and vibrant woman.

MILESTONES



Sir Ian MacGregor, former chairman of British Steel and of the National Coal Board, died on April 13 aged 85. He was born on September 21, 1912.

AS chairman of the Coal Board, Ian MacGregor defeated Arthur Scargill and the miners in 1985, after the year-long pit strike, so demonstrating that Margaret Thatcher was right in claiming that she had come to power to "change everything". Although a Scot, MacGregor had gone to North America during the war as part of the team procuring heavy armaments, and stayed there to build a reputation as one of America's outstanding salesmen and pragmatic managers. In the 1970s he introduced some market realism to British Leyland, before being made chairman of British Steel by Mrs Thatcher. His success in turning around that leviathan led to his appointment as chairman of the Coal Board in 1983, at the age of 71. Confrontation with the miners was widely anticipated, but MacGregor prudently built up coal stocks in advance so as to avoid the kind of humiliation suffered by Edward Heath — and, indeed, by the Thatcher Government in 1981.

Obituary published on April 14.

Dorothy Squires, popular singer, died on April 14 aged 83. She was born on March 25, 1915.

The daughter of a Welsh steelworker, Dorothy Squires made her London debut at 20 and first sang on the wireless at 21. She enchanted the composer Billy Reid, who was 12 years her senior. He wrote a string of hits for her, beginning with *Coming Home*, as well as living with her in tempestuous sin. But in 1952, when she was topping the bill across the country, she met Roger Moore, 12 years her junior, who left his wife and eventually married her. They both worked in Hollywood, but in 1961 Moore left her for an Italian actress, and Squires's world fell apart. Though she enjoyed many further successes, she became a persistent litigant. She twice won damages from the *News of the World*, but lost a much larger fortune in other cases and was declared bankrupt, ending her days as a recluse.



Obituary published on April 15.

Pol Pot, leader of the Khmer Rouge and dictator of Cambodia, 1975-78, died on April 15, apparently in his seventies.

One of the most brutal rulers of the century, Pol Pot is believed to have been responsible for more than a million deaths. During his period as dictator of Cambodia, he executed all who dared to oppose him, and killed thousands more in Stalinist purges and through his pitiless policies of revolutionary Marxism. In 1978 he invaded neighbouring Vietnam, and the following year the Vietnamese occupied Cambodia, ousting Pol Pot and installing a new communist regime. Although his Khmer Rouge forces continued their guerrilla war during the 1980s, he was gradually pushed back into the upland jungles where he died in uncertain circumstances.

Obituary published on April 17.

Sir Ronald Millar, playwright and speechwriter, died on April 15 aged 78. He was born on November 12, 1919.

Having first made his name as a screenwriter and dramatist, Ronnie Millar helped to write the script for Thatcherism. He wrote ten scripts for Edward Heath and broadcast an attack on Harold Wilson in 1970, but did not join the Conservative Party's inner circle until Margaret Thatcher became leader in 1975. He helped to write many of her conference speeches, and his strength of mind had an influence on policy, too. In 1980 he helped to set the tone for her administration with the words "the lady's not for turning". He also served as a speechwriter to John Major, but despite adding some populist touches, the same magic did not work twice.

Obituary published on April 17.



Equities lose ground

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	505	**Allied Domecq**	610	-30	4.0	15.6
412½	295	Bulmer (HP)	356	-2½	5.2	11.0
42½	22½	Burn Stewart	22½		9.4	
764	432	**Diageo▼**	674½	-29	2.7	23.4
900	770	Glenmorangie A	795		2.1	19.0
296½	258	Highland Dist	296½	+6	3.8	13.6
213½	160	Matthew Clark	201½		12.4	6.5
59½	39½	Morydan W	39½		9.8	..
2021½	1368⅞	SA Breweries	1984¾	+9¾	1.7	

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1609⅝	1178¾	ABN-AMRO	1546¼	+17½	2.0	23.0
1345	1010	**Abbey Natl**	1181	-22	3.2	18.1
1032	585	**Alliance & Leic**	866	-22	3.0	17.5
826½	587½	Allied Irish	816¼	-1½	2.3	22.7
458¼	376½	Aus New Z	455¼	+4½	4.5	
5416⅝	3881¼	Bank America	5165¾	-175		
813	431	**Bank Scotland**	767	-13	1.4	31.3
1596	1068	**Barclays**	1790	-14	2.6	18.3
1309	916½	Bk of Ireland	1280	-29	1.6	28.1
6102⅝	6790⅝	Citicorp	9406¼	-25		
1653½	1565⅝	Commerzbk	1593¾	+9¾	3.2	
543½	290⅝	Dai Ichi Kan Y	390⅝	-6½	1.0	
5100	3668½	Deutsche Bk	4940⅝	+3¾	1.2	
1206¼	1153¼	Espirito Santo	1168⅝	+3¼	3.1	
531	245⅛	Fuji Bank Y	333½	+1	1.1	67.0
2073	1294	**HSBC†**	1875	-35	3.3	15.0
2002	937	HSBC HK†	1759	-28	3.6	14.1
1000	700½	**Halifax†**	950	-21	3.6	24.6
842½	642½	Irish Perm†	787½		2.1	22.8
1000	698	**Lloyds TSB†**	979	-16	2.2	36.0
895½	770⅝	Nat Aust Bk	889½	+3	4.2	
1237	751	**Nat West†**	1150	-23	3.5	24.5
673	575	Northern Rock	634	-18	3.1	23.7
1099	565	**Ryl Bk Scot**	976½	-16½	2.7	19.1
1050	528	**Stand Chart†**	940	-64	2.5	15.2
£164¼	£164⅝	Wells Fargo	£164⅝		1.9	
439	385½	Westpac	430½	+6½	3.2	
400	308	**Woolwich†**	354	-9	3.4	18.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1180	873	**Bass▼**	1138	-5	3.0	20.4
61½	50½	Brit Ice the Bdr	57	+3	4.2	17.0
162½	144½	Burtonwd Brw	162½		5.4	14.3
144½	110	City Centre Rest	144		2.5	
1140	581	**Compass Gp**	1041	-1	1.2	36.2
327½	280½	Eldridge P A	326½		2.3	16.5
369½	251½	Enterprise Inns	368½	+2	2.6	20.3
472½	425	Fuller Sm 'A'	472½		2.8	15.2
477½	400	Greenalls Grp	462½	-3	4.5	11.6
760	676½	Greene King	694	+1½	3.0	14.2
277½	197½	Grosvenor Inns	276½		2.9	36.2
335	260	Groupe Chez Ger	331		1.2	22.9
246½	214½	Hardy Hansn	236½		6.1	10.3
2175	1825	Holt J	1890		4.0	10.6
75	62	Inn Business	74		3.2	11.1
305	279	Mansfield	295		3.1	12.2
320½	254½	Merston Thmp	299½	-½	3.5	10.6
442½	422½	Morland	427½		3.9	10.8
382½	294½	Old Eng Pub	352½	-16	0.9	27.9
31½	21½	Paramount	28			
828½	678½	PizzaExpress	782	-1	0.6	35.3
377½	297½	Ramsdens (H)	302½		2.1	38.1
378½	302½	Regent Inns†	376	-1½	1.2	26.9
227	140½	SFI	212½	-2	0.5	37.1
950	717	**Scot & New**	887	-21	3.1	17.7
288½	227	Vaux Group	278½	-4	5.0	11.8
342	273½	Wetherspoon JD†	335		0.8	35.1
1145	850	**Whitbread**	1085	-25	2.8	18.6
530	468	Wolvrhmptn D	525		4.5	11.9
437½	381	Yates Bros	437½	+2	0.9	31.5
667½	637½	Young 'A'	647½		3.0	26.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
68	49½	Aggregate Indst	65½	+1½	3.4	22.5
405½	290	BPB	365	-3	3.4	16.7
106½	88½	Baggeridge Brk	90	-2½	4.9	12.2
62½	44½	Brockleys	54½		1.0	60.8
407	271½	**Blue Circle†**	343½	-9½	4.2	13.0
123½	98½	Breedon PLC	115½		6.5	
187½	135½	Br Dredging	184½	+7	4.5	
929	705	CRH	859½	+5	1.2	21.3
62½	47½	Calcetonod Rby	60½		8.1	4.9
145½	107½	Capel†	145½		5.6	12.5
215½	156½	Caradon	191	-½	5.5	13.3
116	100½	Caradon pf	116	+½	7.8	
130½	90½	Chelten Grp†	110½		4.9	8.1
219	217½	Dyson (J&J)	218½		3.3	13.0
120	107½	Dyson 'A'	107½		6.7	6.4
60½	43½	Ennstone	50½			
197½	147	Epwin	166		7.7	8.8
115½	101½	Gibbs & Dandy†	114		4.4	10.5
191	154	Galliford Grp†	191	+½	3.9	19.0
282½	227½	Hanson (J)	242½		5.2	16.0
395	245	Harcourt	340	-9½	4.4	11.7
265	179	Hepworth†	253½	+5½	4.4	
152½	120½	Hewetson	140		5.7	9.3
239½	202½	Heywd Wlms†	227½	+1	7.6	8.6
66	43	Ibstock†	51	+½	5.4	
365	250	Johnston	305		5.0	
107½	84½	Lilleshall	95½		6.5	9.4
118	82½	Marley†	108½	-1½	5.7	9.4
145½	120	Marshalls	140½		4.8	
412½	328½	Meyer Intl	401	-1½	3.8	14.9
77½	64½	Norcros	68½		3.4	10.6
134	103½	Pilkington	115	-½	5.1	14.7
190	156½	Polypipe†	160	+2½	2.7	11.9
24	14½	Quadrigas	16½	-½		14.3
1016	740½	RMC Gp	993	+½	3.4	13.9
110½	78½	Ruberoid	102½	-½	6.2	
139½	111½	Rugby Group†	120	+1	4.2	17.2
85	76½	Russell (A)	81½	-1	4.7	
253	195½	SIG†	199½		4.9	10.1
2½	1½	SMP	2			10.9
227½	220½	Sharpe & Fisher†	227½		3.5	
25	14½	Spring Ram	20½	-½	0.6	
268½	144½	Streamline Hldgst	245		4.7	
130½	93	Tarmac†	115¼	+1½	6.1	13.9
88	83	Tilon	83		7.8	8.8
628½	457	Travs Perkins†	574	-1½	2.4	17.7
95	60½	Tudor†	82½		4.5	10.6
324½	180½	Ultraframe	317½	+2	1.4	33.6
570	410	**Wolseley**	440		3.3	14.1

CHEMICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
188	134½	Albright & Wil†	169	-11	4.2	16.7
204½	110½	Allied Colloids	204½		2.0	27.7
127½	106½	Amber Ind	122½	-2½	5.9	9.7
107½	92½	Amberley Gp	94½		2.2	16.0
100	72	Alborne Ex	90	+2		14.7
2603¼	2003⅝	BASF DM	2603½	-68¼	2.6	
1109	850	BOC	953½	+8½	3.5	18.4
422½	331½	BTP	375½	-1	4.0	18.0
2537½	2131½	Bayer DM50	2450	+12½	2.3	
126	98½	Brent Chemicl	99½		3.8	11.3
298½	210½	Br Vita†	298½	+1½	3.7	16.1
187½	128½	Brunner Mondt	179		6.1	9.8
296	266½	Canning (W)	288	-2½	4.0	
229½	155	City Technology	155		2.4	37.7
474	234	Courtaulds	442½	-1	3.7	19.0
445	351½	Croda	422½	+½	2.5	20.0
240½	203½	Doeflex	240½		4.5	10.0
152½	116	Elementis	138	-1½		21.9
313½	260½	Ellis & Everard	274½		4.6	11.8
62½	53½	Euro Colour	57		5.4	10.1
178½	138½	Gibbon	156	+½	5.6	10.6
94½	64½	Hickson†	91½	-1½	1.1	15.9
2425	2096½	Hoechst	2343½	-21½	2.2	
1200	738½	ICI†	1097	-5	2.9	41.3
280½	189	Inspect	276½	-3	3.1	12.5
188½	141½	Kalon†	182½		4.2	24.6
837	605	Laporte†	772	-11½	3.3	15.6
72	47	Manders	65		4.7	
35	31	Metroted	31½		4.2	8.0
377	330	Porvair	376		2.1	20.9
231	184	Scapa	185½	-1	4.0	10.0
22	16½	Sutcliffe Speak	18½		7.9	8.0
1761½	1455½	Takeda Chem	1646½	+1½	0.4	31.1
248	221½	Victrex	230½	-½	2.6	20.8
685	605	Wolstnhlme Rt	610	-2½	5.5	
240	190	Yorks Grp	190		6.5	
385½	282½	Yule Catto†	366½		3.4	15.0

CONSTRUCTION

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58½	19½	AAF Inds	42½	-3		
340	230	Abbey	340		2.4	25.6
427½	332½	Allen	425½		2.6	20.9
166½	114	Amec	166½	+½	3.8	16.1
725	400	Amey	730		1.9	22.9
1055	722½	Andrews Sykes†	1062½		1.8	
261	180	Ashtead	254	-1	1.1	31.6
48½	28½	Avonside†	41½		4.5	
35½	26½	Bansi	32		4.1	15.3
73	48½	Barcom	70		2.7	17.3
329	324	Barratt Devst	325½	+6½	3.6	14.3
232	161½	Beazer†	194	+½	4.4	11.0
401½	320½	Bellway	380	+½	3.0	12.7
35½	18½	Belwoch	24			8.3
95½	46½	Ben Bailey	75		3.7	8.5
750½	582½	Berkeley Gp	750½	+7	1.6	13.2
167½	146	Bett Bros	159		5.3	4.8
305	270	Bool (Henry)	305	+10	3.4	11.9
276½	192½	Bovis Homes	260½		4.5	11.4
142½	105	Brandon Hiret	141		3.9	17.2
40½	30½	Britannia Grp	40		3.8	7.6
155½	109	Bryant	132		4.8	12.2
127½	102½	CALA	125		3.9	7.7
	3	Campbell & Arm	3½			
136½	83½	Clarke T†	131½		5.8	9.0
33	20	Costain	33	+3		
125½	97½	Countryside	117		3.2	11.1
142	94½	Crest Nicholson	128		3.7	10.9
118½	85½	Cussins	115	+2½	5.0	
210	160	Eve Group	207½		3.2	15.4
22½	19½	Galliford	21½		6.2	13.3
1100	1015	Gleeson (MJ)	1025		2.3	15.0
175	128½	Havelock Euro	145		4.0	9.4
192	152	Henriques-Stuart	190		2.4	18.7
28	20	Howard Hldgs	21½		5.8	21.4
681	369½	Jarvis	645	-5	1.3	33.1
261	181	Kellert	242½		2.7	
232½	199½	Kier†	214½	-1	4.2	10.8
370½	369½	Laing (J)†	361½		3.6	19.2
125	117½	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf†	121	-1	6.6	
14½	8½	Lovell (Y.J)	12½	-½		
212½	155½	Maunders (J)†	209½		3.8	12.1
180	133½	McAlpine (A)	168		6.7	
154½	113½	McCarthy & S	152½		2.5	14.2
120	70	McInerney†	120	+5	1.0	
225½	171½	Morgan Sindall	217½	+1	3.0	11.3
397½	301	Morrison Cons	382½		1.7	21.4
137	77½	Mowlem (J)†	112	-½	4.5	10.3
259½	182½	Persimmon†	229	+½	5.5	10.8
109½	80½	Peterhouse	98	-2½	4.9	
120	112	Pochins†	120		2.9	13.3
149½	116	Prowting	139½		3.8	12.9
198	142½	Redrow†	170		2.8	12.6
322½	222½	Spendlent	310		1.5	17.9
94½	77½	Swan Hill	80		4.4	14.4
142½	125	Tay Homes†	125½	-2	7.6	10.2
239	174	Taylor Woodrw†	234	+3½	1.9	17.6
263½	190	Tilbury Dougt	246½	-1	4.9	
29½	21½	Try Group†	25		2.9	9.6
78½	63½	Vibroplant	76		6.7	
135½	109½	Wainhomes	132½		4.5	13.7
58	42½	Ward Hldgs	52½		6.3	7.4
272½	226½	Westbury▲	256	+1	3.4	12.9
15	12½	Wiggins	13			19.0
191	139½	Wilson (C)†	175½	+1	3.9	13.5
672	511	Wilson Bowdn	672	+3½	2.4	13.6
140½	92½	Wimpey Gt	128	+4½	5.5	10.7

DISTRIBUTORS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
248½	182½	Action Cp Sys	246	-½	1.4	20.4
355	305	Adam & Harvey	307½		9.2	4.6
21	9½	Alexanders	18	-½		
2	1	Asc Br Eng	1½			58.8
457	356½	BSS Group	357½		7.3	10.7
20½	12½	Beaming Power	17	...		
24½	34½	Bogod 'A'	34½		3.3	5.5
687	560	Bramner†	686	+3½	3.1	15.3
16	10½	Bridgend Gp	15		1.7	
95	79	Brit Fittings	87½	-½	7.6	
372½	345	Cattyns	365		4.5	8.4
189½	170½	Co Group	181½		3.2	17.2
155	134½	Cavendale	149½		3.4	
54	31½	Coen (DC)	48		6.4	6.9
130½	96½	Dag Motors	129½	..	8.9	
125½	105½	Dennis B	115½	...	9.2	9.0
265	217½	Diploma	238½		7.6	9.7
585½	450	Electrocomponts	585½	+25	1.7	31.5
186	143½	Eurodis Elec	147½	-1	2.5	25.4
107½	84½	European Mtr	98½	-3	7.5	7.7
305	250½	Evans Halshaw†	281		7.6	9.0
67½	39½	Fife Indmart	67		6.9	7.6
400½	357½	Finelist Grp	369	-4	2.8	14.7
27½	21½	Gardner	24½	-1½	6.1	10.6
82½	60½	Glenchewton	75	-½	3.4	
135½	89½	Gowhagh†	123	-1	3.6	11.7
18½	13	HR Owen†	15½	-½	6.5	10.1
402	340	Headlam	381		2.3	
160	135	Holders Techt	137½		6.1	
130	77½	ISA Intl	77½		5.5	5.9
250	136½	Inchcape†	218	-2	5.4	26.2
80	57½	Jacks (Wm)	70½	-4½	6.4	
535	351½	Kwik-Fit	510	-½	1.6	22.9
582½	432½	Lex Service†	557½	-18½	3.9	14.2
133	100	Lookers†	116½		8.9	7.9
500	351	Menzies (John)	500		3.5	16.2
5½	4	Middleses	4½		2.8	11.0
19½	16½	Mossiness	17		3.5	
306	242	Nortain	290		3.8	11.7
261	207½	Northambert	210½		1.8	14.0
342	296½	Parcol	306	-2½	3.6	
312½	249½	Pendragon†	294	-6½	4.5	13.9
242½	167½	Perry Gp	216½	-1	5.6	
443	272	Promes Farrell	366½	+½	4.5	14.3
159½	119½	Quicks Group†	158½	+1	6.1	
285	155	REA	165		2.5	
2½	1½	Reece	2			
37½	30½	Ring	32½			
12½	4½	Ronson	8½	-1½		
5½	3½	Ross Gp	4½	-½		
112½	97½	Rotand	107½	+1	5.1	8.2
31	25½	SEP Ind	26½	-½	6.0	13.7
30	16½	Sabre	17½	-1	8.6	
54½	48	Sedgemoor	53½		4.0	13.6
273½	226½	Symes	260		3.3	12.1
195½	167½	Time Products	176½		8.8	7.3
210	132½	Trust Motor Grp	195		1.6	3.4
432	390	UMECO	411		1.8	21.9
124	88½	United Cseas Gp	116	+½	0.4	25.8
299½	244½	Vardy (Reg)†	286½	-2	3.4	13.5
800	655	WF Electr†	750		2.6	23.1
157½	140	Wyko	143½	-½	2.8	13.5
150½	135	Young (H)	150½	+½	3.8	10.7

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
330	297	Antofagasta	301		2.4	26.2
330	229	Ascot Hldgs	318½		3.6	12.2
642	522½	Broken Hill	601		3.3	16.9
697½	465½	**BAT†**	560	+1	4.6	14.5
43½	33	Brierley Inv	34	+½	9.1	8.4
248½	167	Cookson†	242		3.8	14.1
299½	217½	Cosalt	265		5.3	10.5
585	410	DCC	526	+1	1.9	19.6
383	304	Galliford†	310	-2	7.8	8.8
450½	288	Hutch Whamp	389½	-3	3.2	
474½	383½	Imperial Tob	440	+5	6.1	10.8
335½	231½	Jardine Mathf	246½	-½	6.0	
115	74½	Lonrho	99	-½	8.0	18.1
575	474½	Powell Duffryn	527½		5.9	13.7
147	101	Staveley	126	-1½	8.9	16.5
368½	259	Swire Pacific	312½	-5½	4.3	
328	241½	IT Group	328	+8	3.4	12.3
384½	288	Tomkins	350	-1	3.4	14.9
230½	207½	Unidare	230		7.1	11.7
490	415	Wardle Storeys	490	+5	5.2	15.0
381½	301½	Wassall†	330½	-2½	2.4	15.1
135½	117	Whitecroft	117½	-3	4.9	19.0

ELECTRICITY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
599	310	Br Energy	544	-3	3.2	53.6
873½	600	**Energy Group**	852	+8	3.1	17.1
398	298⅝	**National Grid**	373½	-2	3.9	14.7
700	518⅝	**National Power**	552	+9½	6.3	7.5
900	725	**PowerGen**	774	+19	4.3	11.7
597½	502½	Hydro-Elect	574	+4½	4.0	13.1
599	475	**Scottish Power**	532	-10	4.5	13.2
580	467	Southern Elec	537½	-8½	5.2	14.3
576	522	Viridian	548½		4.9	38.3

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
350½	305	Acal	307½	-2	4.1	10.0
1127½	690	Admacil†	1127½	...	0.3	
39½	27½	Amstrad	38	-1	1.6	
34	26½	Arlen	27½		6.5	7.2
139½	105½	Astec	114	...	1.7	12.0
70½	47½	Azlan	55			
173½	127½	BICC	155	+4½	6.6	
75½	51½	Beales Hunter	73½		17.3	7.1
345	260	Black	335		5.2	11.4
499½	345½	Bowthorpe†	480	-15	2.9	18.3
17	12	Bulgin A	14½		6.5	17.6
205½	150½	CML Micro	190		4.0	22.7
27½	10	Channel Hldgs	11	+1	18.8	3.4
45½	38½	Chloride	43		2.0	10.3
109½	64½	Clayhithe	107½		4.2	11.9
810	722½	Coachley	802½		2.0	21.5
317½	213½	Delta†	288½		5.5	11.3
451	392	Domino	423½	+1	3.6	14.8
77½	51	Dowding Mills	61	+2½	6.7	11.3
290	240	Drock	282½		0.8	30.4
5575	4118½	Electrolux 'B'	5416¼	-140¾	1.8	
24½	17	Emess	23	-½	3.3	16.0
3068½	2138½	Ericsson 'B'	2885¾	+6¼	0.9	
388	311	Eurotherm	321½		3.9	14.2
590	463	Farey Group	561½	-1	2.1	15.9
587½	428	Filtronic	483	-1	0.4	33.4
17½	7½	Forward Tech	18	-½	2.0	
485	338	GEC	444	-8	3.8	20.5
48½	35½	Ind Control	42½	..	2.0	
22	15½	Intelek	17		7.2	
73	54½	LPA Ind	63½		4.4	23.4
425	425	Mitel	425	..		
177½	117½	Network Tech	147		7.1	17.1
328	255	Oxford Inst	300		3.2	10.6
111	23½	Pace Micro	88½	+12½	3.6	
4775	3450	Philips Lmp nv	4431½	-1	1.1	
88½	38½	Plasmon	73	-3	1.7	
345	272½	Pressac†	287½		1.9	21.0
60½	30	Prestwick	30	-3½	4.6	8.3
462½	284	Psion†	281½	-2	1.1	28.3
345	243½	Racal Elect	337	-½	2.2	63.6
58½	51½	Radamec	58½		6.7	
421	335	Renishaw†	419½	+1½	2.7	24.5
2½	1½	Rodime	1½			
264	191½	Roxboro†	253½		3.6	
281	202½	SDA Bus Sys	274½		1.1	32.8
377½	244	Sevcomo†	330	-10	3.6	16.2
58½	38½	Silvermines†	47½		3.8	
4993½	4128½	TDK†	4798½	-21½	0.6	
72½	59	TGI	63½	-1	7.0	6.6
107½	89½	TLG	80	-2	5.7	10.6
62	7	Tadpole Tech	24	-1		
58½	38½	Telemetrix	48	-½	4.3	11.2
365	220	Telspec	314	-8		38.5
150½	122½	Thorpe (FW)	143	-1½	4.0	7.8
157½	70½	Total Systems	125		1.4	27.0
125	100	Tunstall	120½		5.4	16.9
18	7	Ultima Networks	10½		10.7	
111	65½	Vardy	96½	-1½	0.1	
125½	84½	Vorot	115½		6.3	
40½	30	Vigilen Technology†	31		1.6	
523	460	Volex	520½		5.1	14.3

ENGINEERING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
280	237½	AIM	240		3.9	11.3
44	28½	ASW	29½	..		
255	145	Alumasc	177½		8.0	8.1
161	129½	Alvis	150		2.9	19.1
176	159½	Ash & Lacy†	175		5.5	8.3
125	70	Ayrshire Metal	70		9.8	3.9
460½	345½	BBA†	428½	-3½	1.9	17.5
212½	150	BTR†	200	-6	4.8	11.6
87½	68½	BM	85½		4.8	9.4
85½	61	Babcock	68		2.3	
8½	6½	Bailey (CH)	8½	+½	3.7	
99	77	Baynes (Charles)†	94		4.3	13.3
27½	11½	Beauford	12		8.7	
44	27	Benson Group	42½		4.4	40.2
230½	181½	Bertsford	216		3.2	12.4
97½	84	Bersid Cv Un Ln	94		5.3	
1180	867½	Bodycote	1049		1.2	23.9
44½	35½	Booth Inds	36½	-2	..	
20½	15½	Boxway	17½	+½	6.3	8.0
141	117½	Budport	127½	-1	4.7	14.3
2090	1525	Br Aerospace†	1950	-13	1.3	21.2
157	122½	Br Steel	145½	-1½	8.6	13.3
156½	136½	Brooke Inds	143½		4.4	7.9
16½	11½	Brunel	11½		5.4	5.3
102½	92½	Bullough	95		7.6	9.8
36	29	Carbo	29		5.2	
217½	163½	Carclo Eng	165½		8.1	9.9
225	183½	Castings	204	-2½	3.2	11.7
215	190	Chamberlin Hill	215		4.7	9.7
750	570	Charter†	640½	-5	4.9	20.9
155½	110½	Chemring	147½	+1	2.5	
275	235	Clyde Blowers	251		3.5	54.4
1092	792½	Cobham	1049½	-2½	1.6	27.2
430	400	Cohen (A)	410			
119½	107½	Concentric	110	-1½	8.3	22.8
230½	184½	David Brown	197½		5.5	11.7
325	282½	BS	317½	-1	5.4	10.9
21½	16	Deco	21½		8.7	
108½	72½	Elson (B)	107½		3.7	14.3
155½	124½	Expamet	147½	-5½	3.3	14.2
208	147½	FKI	197	-½	3.4	17.9
195½	167½	Fenner	181½	-5	2.9	14.4
2½	1½	Fenwin	2			
40	29	Firth Hldgs	31½	-½	1.0	23.9
154½	126½	Firth Rixson	143½	-1½	2.4	17.5
45½	27½	Flare	29½		4.2	2.6
104	91½	GEI Intl	98½		5.7	10.0
196½	148½	Garton Eng	181½	+1½	5.7	..
297½	216½	Glynwed†	281		5.9	11.3
139½	92½	Haden Mactin	139½	+½	2.8	14.2
230	185	Hadleigh	190	-2	4.8	9.0
240	160	Hall Eng	236		4.5	
126½	89½	Halma	114	-2½	2.7	15.5
73½	64½	Hampson Ind	67½		4.6	13.8
59	32½	Hay (Norman)	50	...	2.6	
54½	40½	Headway†	43½	...	4.6	5.8
70½	42½	Hill & Smith	59	-½	8.9	14.9
104½	65½	How Gp	95		3.7	
243½	210½	Hunting†	241		4.1	12.9
461½	378	IMI	427		3.3	13.9
624½	467½	Johnson Matth	585	-2½	2.7	14.2
28½	23½	Jones Stroud	23½		8.0	9.7
420	385	Kelsey Ind	385		9.7	6.6
385	299½	Lincat	375	-1	3.6	11.9
32½	23½	Locker (T)	24		5.2	8.8
221½	167½	MS Int	30½		3.7	
460	403½	Mang Bronze	439½	-13	2.9	17.8
498½	377½	McKechnie	485½	+4	4.5	12.6
167½	155½	McLeod Russel	157		5.6	11.4
211	154½	Meggitt	180	-6	3.3	19.4
59	82½	Metalrax	95	-1½	5.6	
14½	11½	Metaltech	14½			
178½	142½	Molsor	170			3.8
35½	27½	Molins†	28½		7.1	
472½	382½	Morgan Cruct	429	-5	4.5	13.7
55½	33	Neepsend	54		4.6	11.7
57½	45½	Polyhedron	49½	-½	10.0	6.6
608½	182	Powerscreen	205	-3	6.4	5.3
209½	157½	Quadramatic	158½		7.9	8.1
50	20½	Quadrant Grp	24½	+2		
60	50	Radiant Metal	55	..		
261½	229	Renold	230½	-2	3.8	9.3
65	73	Richardson West	78½	-1	8.8	6.7
301½	188	Rolls-Royce	268	-2½	2.8	20.0
357	269	Rotork†	356		3.3	
220	140	Rubicon	190	-2	4.1	13.6
1200	1153½	SKF 'B'	1184¼	+3¾	3.4	
219½	139½	Senior Eng	219½	+9½	2.0	21.3
612½	461½	Smith-Rev	551½	-8½	2.3	
1496	975	Siebe	1304	+32	1.2	23.3
132½	114½	Six Hundred	122½	-½	6.1	8.7
950½	702	Smiths Indt	815	-23	2.8	18.2
18½	11	Soherst	11½		2.6	
630	542½	Spirax-Sarco†	595		3.1	15.5
326½	262½	Sterling Ind	309½	+1	4.2	11.3
600	424	TI†	520	-5	3.1	16.3
106½	89½	Tinsley (E)	93	-2	8.3	8.8
87½	64½	Transtec	78½	-1	4.4	
277½	270	Tripler Lloyd	277½		3.2	18.8
417	347½	Ultra Elect†	377½	-2½	2.4	18.5
68	55½	Utd Inds	57		5.8	8.0
242½	198	Vickers†	232	-2½	3.9	14.4
10½	7½	Villiers Grp	10	..		
703	584	Vitec	655		2.7	12.3
807½	740	Vosper Thorny	775		4.3	11.9
320	280	Wagon Ind	306	-1	4.8	13.6
314½	222½	Weir†	289½	+½	3.9	13.5
172½	137½	Wellington Hldgt	162½		6.4	
81½	55	Wescol	70		2.9	15.3
835	750	Whatman	811	-1½	2.4	21.3
59½	42½	Wolsey	56	-½	8.0	17.2

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
148½	123	Airsure	134½	..	5.8	10.5
160	150	Airflow Stream	152½		6.6	11.0
685	617	Avon Rubber	678		3.3	15.2
345	305	Bostrom	305		3.0	
161½	114½	Britax	160	+1½	2.5	17.7
312½	251½	Dennis	292½		3.9	13.5
376½	277½	First Tech	368½		1.4	25.7
1686	1052½	**GKN†**	1620	-15	1.8	20.7
4487½	3418⅝	General Mtr	4100	-150	2.9	
533	414½	Hendyst	520	+1	3.9	13.4
2326½	1991½	Honda Motor	2037½	-2½	0.4	
480	384½	Laird	405		3.5	10.7
269	194	LucasVarity	260½	-5½	2.2	15.6
225½	158½	Mayflower†	222	+½	1.5	21.7
127½	95½	Syltone	115½		7.0	8.6
261	252½	T & N	259		4.4	15.0
31½	22½	Toad	29	+½	..	
42½	36½	Wilsaw	40		2.7	10.8

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
670	530	AB Food	556	-1	2.3	17.2
270	215	Acatos & Hutch	231		5.7	24.4
37	24½	Albert Fisher	28½	+½	15.7	10.4
285	195	Banks (S C)	195		7.4	7.1
500	417	Barr (AG)	497½		4.3	
44½	34	Bensons Crsp	36		5.5	7.7
360	209	Booker	288½	+7	11.0	12.1
845	571½	Brake Bros	843½	..	1.7	
103½	85	CPL Aromas	95	-1½	6.3	27.4
905	600	**Cadbury-Schwt**	873½	-30½	2.1	23.5
262	147½	Carrs Milling	156	+5	9.3	5.3
114½	70½	Cavaghan	114½		4.0	20.2
264½	234½	Cranswick	264½		4.9	12.6
366½	253	Dairy Crest Group	382	+½	3.5	15.3
379	273½	Dalgety	360		3.4	
67	37½	Daniels St	52½	-2½	1.2	17.2
527½	375	Devro†	527½	+1	2.3	22.4
129	99	Finlay (James)	124		3.6	22.8
530	404	Geest	512½	+5	2.5	
15½	8½	Global	15		6.0	18.6
372	285	Greencore	372	+2	2.4	20.4
211½	164½	Hazlewood Fds	200		4.4	14.4
185	142	Hillsdown	171	-1	7.3	10.2
410	392	Linton Park	394		5.1	8.5
100	86	Matthews (B)	98		5.5	15.0
224½	205½	Nichols (Vi)†	219½	+5	4.5	
240	182	Nimn Foods	228½	-1	5.4	13.1
20	15	Notnalorm Fn	15½		1.6	8.1
112½	89½	Paramount Foods†	103½	-1	6.3	
57	50	Pescoe's	50			54.7
147½	103½	Perkins Food	133		3.5	
83½	69½	Plant & Gen	80½	-1	2.5	
92	80	Sentry Farm	83½		6.2	
34½	23½	Sims Food	26			2.8
583	450	**Tate & Lyle**	538½	+½	3.5	14.3
151	116	Tesu	121½		6.2	13.4
738½	591½	Unigate	711	-5½	3.6	11.8
655	345½	**Unilever**	610	-2½	1.7	30.0
4737½	3500	Unilever (NV)	4371½	+38½	1.5	12.3
280	216½	Utd Biscuits†	238	-9	5.5	18.9
62½	44½	WT Foods	58½		3.2	22.4

HEALTHCARE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
442½	318½	Alnce UniChem	406½	-6	3.0	17.7
165	135	Assoc Nursg	165		2.8	26.0
890	693	Bespak	890		1.8	25.5
625	115	Biocompts Intl	143½	+9½		
163½	144	Care UK	163½	+2½	1.0	19.0
88½	28½	Celsis	32½			
520	389½	Community Hlt	518½		2.9	18.9
32	26½	CrestaCare†	31½		4.0	14.7
18	7½	Enviromed	15			
164½	122½	Ferraris Group	157½	-½	2.5	14.7
169½	144½	Gyms	159½			
171½	141	Hadlgs Tec	149½	+1	2.5	18.8
138½	97½	Innovative Tech	105½	-1		
95	68	Intercare Gpt	77½	-1	5.5	42.9
583	495	Isolent	532½		1.5	19.0
281	150	Len Ind	200	-½	1.7	26.6
256½	190½	Nestor Hlth†	256½	+12	1.9	27.5
2750	3050	Nycomed Amsht	2172	-18	1.1	24.1
5½	5½	Premier Health#	5½			
11	6½	Regina	9½	-½		
368½	255½	Scholl†	368		2.9	20.2
629½	501½	Seton Health	621½		1.8	24.3
610	507½	Shield Diag	540			
230	190	Sinclair Mont	201	-5	0.1	
194	150	Smith & Neph	167½	-2½	3.8	15.1
2½	2	Tamaris	2½		4.1	17.2
412½	362½	West Hlthcare	401	-3	2.1	18.2

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
152½	132½	Airsprung	133½		6.0	8.6
196	165½	Albrt	189½		4.1	10.8
85	55	Albion	66		6.2	6.9
149½	120½	Alexandra W	135½		6.0	12.6
187½	124	Allied Textile	153½	-½	6.9	10.1
18	13½	Amourt	16½		5.7	40.4
305	157	BLP Group†	179	-2	5.2	6.5
285½	205	Bond (Wm)	260	+3½	5.1	13.1
53½	50	Beckon Bdrsea	52½		3.6	27.2
149½	97½	Black Arrow	121		4.4	10.0
421½	391½	Black (Peter)†	406	-1	2.0	18.9
184½	76	Brtish Mohart	82½	-1	6.1	71.1
88½	47½	Caremoul Garments	55		16.5	
100	81½	Coats Viyella	94	+1	5.1	33.4
182½	146	Cornwell Prkr 5pf	159		2.6	12.7
363	313	Courtaulds Text†	325	-7½	5.9	12.4
33½	25½	Creighton	27½			
13½	6½	Dallynin	6½		13.3	
88½	48	Dawson†	57		7.8	8.3
157½	134½	Dentsy Group	135		4.2	10.0
267½	230	Dewhirst	238	-4	2.9	14.2
23	17	Dunlo Hestt	21½		9.3	
27	15½	Drummond Group	16½		15.2	4.4
122½	107½	Eclipse Blinds†	107½	-2	4.2	
42	29	Elbed	31		4.8	6.5
131½	95	FII Group	95		5.3	7.3
34	24	Faupel Trading	28		10.5	5.3
10½	4	Foster (J)	4½			
44½	37½	French	37½		5.2	
502½	377½	Gaskell	435½	-1½	2.5	8.3
78½	62	Haggas (J)	62½		9.0	12.2
11½	8½	Hartstone Group	10½		5.6	28.6
257½	220	Healing Partecost	220	-½	4.4	12.4
4	2½	Hollas Group	3½			
18½	10½	Honeysuckle Grp#	14	...		
84	62½	Horace Small	81			
332½	260	IWP Int	332½		1.9	14.9
25½	12½	Jacques Vert	12½			
52½	37½	Jerome (S) & Sons	51		7.7	12.4
320	290	Jones Stroud	290	-3½	4.8	12.3
59½	47½	Jourdan (T)	59½		3.2	
134	91½	Kenwood App	95	-2½		
245	200	Lambert Howarth†	219		4.9	9.7
152	135	Lamont Hldgs	137		12.5	9.0
123	90	Leeds Group	92½		9.5	5.8
17	8½	Leslie Wisef	15		12.5	
16	12½	Lionheart†	15½		3.2	12.5
90	68	Lyles (S)	86		3.7	8.6
210	173	McBride†	202	-3	4.4	14.7
122½	103½	Maybourn	118½	-1	8.4	8.4
575	550	Osborne & Little	565		4.6	11.2
4½	2½	PEX Group▲	4½		2.4	
126	52½	Parkland Group	53½	-6½	9.8	
475	435	Pearson Zcht	463½		4.7	10.3
420	375	Pearson Zcht 'A'†	417		5.3	9.2
128	109½	Pentland Group	121	+½	3.9	17.0
210	185	Pifcot	205		4.0	10.4
303	185	Pifco 'A' Vigt	182		4.2	9.7
60½	47½	Pittards†	49	-1½	8.9	10.8
43½	38	Readicut Intl	41½		7.8	12.2
1390	852	**Reckitt Colnt**	1222	-23	2.0	21.8
595	430½	Relyon†	576	-4	3.1	18.6
36	25½	Richards	26½		9.4	
214½	174½	Royal Doulton†	198½		6.3	
32½	20½	SEET	28½			
45½	29½	Sherwood Group†	40½	-½	11.1	10.8
110½	89½	Shiloh	101½	-½	4.9	7.1
285	265	Silentnight	285		4.9	11.5
70½	52½	Smart	68		10.2	8.6
41½	32½	Stirling Group	37		7.9	8.7
16½	7½	Stoddard	7½		12.1	17.0
252½	191½	Stoves	196	+2½	3.8	12.8
278½	211½	Swallowfield	268½		3.8	12.6
206½	155	Tomkinsons	182½		7.9	9.9
9½	3	Uk Safety	3			
142	134	Usher (F)	137		10.0	7.0
80	70	Victoria	70		4.5	11.1
150	117½	Vymura†	145		4.7	10.2
62½	40	Walker Greenbk	58½	+½	8.2	
100½	80	Wirfard Widgett	96½		1.7	27.2
67½	60½	Wensum	62½		10.0	5.4
195	195	Wood (Arthur)†	195		4.5	12.9
140	89½	Yorklyde	92½		6.9	

INSURANCE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4009½	3250	Am Gen	3916½	-62½	2.3	
130	108	Angerstein	129		10.2	10.0
64½	53½	Bradstock	61	-½	11.7	6.2
1364	1102½	Britannic	1281	-1½	3.3	8.6
163½	129	CLM Insce	163½	+½	8.4	12.8
275½	262½	Charles Taylor	270½		2.1	30.2
1300	700	Cone Unloart	1236	-14	2.6	23.8
355½	237	Cox Insce	349½		1.0	25.9
550	455	Dom & Genl	542½		2.3	19.9
159	112	Euclidian	152½	-1	12.3	18.9
443½	303	FBD IE	441	+2½	2.1	
182	146½	Finsbury Undert	161½		10.1	12.9
1626	897	**Gen Accident**	1563	-7	3.0	10.6
495	325	**GREt**	427½	-8½	2.7	6.5
675½	441½	Hibernian IE	675	-½	1.5	13.1
206	187	Hiscox	189	-1	2.1	32.1
156	143	Hiscox Select	155		2.3	14.3
1800	1145	Independent	1697½	+2½	1.2	16.9
592½	342½	Irish Lifet	565½	-10	2.4	
187	151½	Jardine Lyd Thy	175½		7.1	11.8
142½	103	Kiln Capital	138½	-2	2.5	47.0
1165	100½	Lambert Fen	104½		10.0	7.4
785	532	**Legal & Genl**	737	-6	2.2	18.7
2278½	1421½	Liberty Lfet	2240½	-38½	1.7	31.3
184½	145	Lmtd	173	-1	4.5	10.5
627½	498½	Londn & Manf	545		5.7	22.4
5506½	4321½	Marsh McLn	5468½	+25	2.3	
113	100	Mastfhead	110½		15.8	
87	80½	New London Cap	80½	-	8.3	11.8
568	385	**Norwich Union**	466	+1	3.2	18.2
131½	102½	Ockham	122½	-2½	4.7	
110½	81½	Oriel	97½		7.4	57.6
135	117	Premium Trst	133		3.7	27.1
1000	720	**Prudential†**	888	-33	2.2	20.9
20½	17½	PWS	20		4.7	4.4
825	590	**Royal & Sun All†**	758	+1	3.0	19.1
302½	167½	St James Place†	292	-7½	0.6	34.3
169½	132	Sedgwick†	160	-3	4.4	12.6
29	22½	Steer Bamil	24½	-½	7.7	...
645	434⅝	**Sun Life & P**	580	-19	2.6	33.1
138	110	Syndicate Cap	133		8.7	10.4
625	521½	Utd Assurance	606½		4.4	13.9
169½	147½	Wellington	158½		3.6	10.9
173½	129½	Willis Corroon	172	-½	4.8	13.9
16	11½	Windsor	14½		5.2	

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
610	490	**3i**	586	-16	2.0	34.2
65	51½	Aberdeen Emg Ec	61			
123½	96½	Aberdeen High Inc	119½	-½	7.0	17.8
133	84	Aberdn New Dawn	111	-1½	1.9	45.0
237	206½	Aberforth Smll	232	-1½	3.8	35.9
139½	116	Aberforth Sm Wts	138½	-½		
3022½	2466	Alliance†	2941	-17	2.5	45.1
700½	584	Anglo & O'seas	682	-5½	1.9	61.3
74½	67½	Aust Opps	70		0.4	
67	50½	Baillie Gifford SN	56½	+½		
289½	239½	Bankers	276½	-5	2.5	44.8
110½	85½	Baring Em Eu	104½	+1½		
607½	468½	Baring Tribne	601½	-3½	1.7	68.5
140½	114½	Br Assets	135½	-2½	4.5	25.2
122	106	Br Empire Sec	117½	-½	1.1	63.5
61½	52½	Brazilian	59½			
374½	313	Brunner	373	-½	2.2	58.5
110	110	BZW Conv#	110		8.9	
90½	74½	Caimgorm Demt	84½	-½	1.3	
987½	737½	Candover†	841½		3.0	
68½	58½	Central Euro Grth	62½			
483½	364	Chart European	473	-4½	1.6	
190	168	City Merch Hft	189		6.1	15.5
281	230	City Of Lon	275	-3½	3.0	37.8
348½	234	Cord Assct	348	-1	0.7	
77½	74½	Danae Inv Inc	75½		13.7	9.7
635	530	Derby Cap	627½	-2½	..	
139½	127½	Derby Inc	139½		18.8	4.0
220½	174½	Dunedin Inc Gt	211	-1	3.6	33.4
410½	335½	Dunedin Smlr	406½	-2½	3.1	34.5
218½	170	Dunedin Wrde	213	-3½	1.2	
282½	245	ENIC#	278½		0.2	
60½	43	Edin Dragon	51½	-1		
29½	24½	Edinburgh Inst	29	-1½		
519	413½	Edinburgh IT	496	-5	2.8	39.5
106	81½	Edin Japan	87½	-1½		
519½	424½	Edin US Trkt	497½	-5½	1.0	
618	527	Electra Inv	615½	-1½	2.0	43.4
187	157	Eng & Scot	182½	-2½	2.4	39.5
28½	25½	Enl Cap	27	..		
519½	374	European Assett	506½	-1½	0.9	
70½	47½	Fidity Asian Val	62	-1½		
351	277½	Fidity Euro Valt	345½	-3	0.2	
32½	25	Fidity Jap Val	28½			
158	135½	Fidity Spec Val	152	-2½	1.1	75.9
250½	217½	Finsbury 'A'	247½	-3	2.0	67.4
223	173	Finsbury Grth	206	-6	2.1	57.7
155½	130	Fine Art Chie	142½	+½	1.7	75.0
18½	2½	Fire Arr Wts	3½			
642½	513½	Fleming Amer	617½	-2	0.4	
64	44½	Fleming Asian	56½	-½	...	
12½	6½	Fleming Asian Wts	9½			
64½	44½	Fleming Chinese	54½			
27½	14	Fleming Ch Wts	17½	-½		
507½	401½	Fleming Claver	493	-1½	1.7	88.3
644½	471	Fleming Cont	633½	-2½	0.8	
129	100½	Fleming Em Mkts	128	-½	0.4	
352	271	Fleming Emp	335	-5	2.0	49.9
489	371½	Fleming Fledgt	487½	-1	0.3	
411	307	Flem Grd Gth Ord	407½	-1½	0.8	
162½	152	Flem Snd Gth Prl	162½		10.0	
132½	103	Fleming Inc Cap	131½	-½	5.5	25.0
111½	105½	Fleming Ing Inc	109		11.4	10.1
350½	245½	Fleming Ing Cap	345½	-3		
49	39½	Fleming Indian	48½	-		
12½	8½	Fleming In Wts	11			
167½	131	Fleming Japan	136½	-½		
439	364½	Fleming Mercy	424	-5	2.9	
84	70½	Fleming Nat Rest	82½	-½	0.3	
413½	350½	Fleming Oseas	404½	-2	1.4	
184	148½	Fleming Smlr Co	183½	-½	3.1	53.3
203½	188	Foreign & Colt	194	-2	1.5	67.8
123½	97	F&C Inc Grth	116½	-½	3.9	32.4
107½	93½	F&C Emg Mkts	95½	-		
266½	185	F&C Enterpriset	259½	+1	1.9	56.2
498½	361½	F&C Eurost	485½	-3	0.3	
202	150½	F&C German	199½	-½	0.4	
131	98½	F&C Pacific	110½	-½	2.1	52.8
178½	144½	F&C PEP	178		3.2	38.9
204	177	F&C Smaller	203½	-½	1.7	59.5
172	144½	F&C US Smlr	166½	-1½		
64½	60½	Framlin Inct	63½		10.1	
158	109½	Framlin Cap	158	-1½		
276	433½	Framl Dual Cp	273	-2	...	
59	38½	Fulcrum Cap	58½	-½		
22½	17½	Fulcrum Inc	18	-½	84.6	2.0
191½	188	Fulcrum Zero	191			
319½	270½	Gartmore Brit	319½		3.5	
329½	242½	Gartmore Euro	321	-3	0.6	
154½	110	Gartmore Shrd	154	-½	7.6	15.9
437½	345½	G'more Smlr Cost	437½	+½	1.7	64.5
74½	52½	Geared Inc Ord	73		8.4	9.4
58½	51½	Geared Inc Inc	58½		10.8	7.3
103	59½	Gov Asn Sm Cost	92		0.7	
90½	70½	Gov Emg Mkts	86½	-½	0.5	
184½	151½	Govett Am Smlr	182	-½		
97½	81½	Govett High Inct	93	-3	7.5	16.0
108½	80½	Govett Oriental	95½	-½	0.9	
465	379½	Govett Strategic	450	-6½	2.1	42.6
31½	19½	Gresham House	31½		1.0	1.9
146½	119	GT Inc Growth	144½	-½	2.9	49.7
180½	136½	GT Japan	141½	-1½	9.4	
154½	114½	Guin Fl Ex Inc	154		6.7	
76	61	Henderson Am Cp	73½	-½		
120½	116½	Henderson Am In	117½	-½	8.3	15.3
43½	29	Henderson Am Wt	42½	-½		
350½	281½	Hend Elec Gen	335	-4½	1.4	77.9
132½	101	Hend Far East	102½	-1	8.3	14.6
577½	452	Hend Emlear	570		1.7	71.5
172	151½	Hend High Inct	163	-2	8.1	22.2
42½	30½	Hend Jap Smlr	35½	-½		
276½	219	Hend Smlr	276	-½	1.8	66.5
520½	495	Hend Strats	804½	-7	0.1	
69½	51	Hend IR Pact	55½	-½	0.6	
117½	88½	Hend Tech	110	-½		
182½	135½	Heraldt	182	-½		
124½	105½	High Income T	120		7.1	15.1
162	140	H Gowett Smlr	161½		2.3	57.1
176½	139½	IGS UK Smlr	176½		2.1	70.6
213½	180	Inv Cap	205½	-4	3.5	31.0
97	67½	Intl Biotech	70	-1½		
20	7½	Intl Biotec Wts	8			
79	70	Intl Biotec C	74			
58½	38	INVESCO Asia	49½		1.6	61.1
210½	175½	INVESCO Eng Int	207½	-½	0.8	
36½	25½	INVESCO Jap Dis	27½	-½		
49½	30	INVESCO Korea	37½	-½		
33½	23½	INVESCO Tokyo	25½	-½		
107½	83½	JF Fledg Jap	87½	+1		
204	135	J Fry Euro U	202	-1½	3.5	
107½	69½	J Fry Inv W	107½		6.5	12.9
88½	79½	J Fry Utl Inc	86	-½	8.1	62.4
150	121½	Jupiter Ex Inc	149½	-½	6.6	18.9
41½	19½	Jupiter Ex IncW	41½	...		
105	91	Jupiter Grd Cap	105		9.6	12.9
50	44	Jupiter Grd Pfd	50			
150½	135½	Jupiter Ind Gvt	150		3.4	
100½	73½	Kiwi E Mkt	98	-1		
177½	164½	Kiwi End	176	-1		
156	118	Kiwi H Inc	156		9.3	15.8
223½	170½	Kiwi Smlr	222½	-1	1.5	
201½	89	Korea—Euro	176½	+½	0.7	
132	113	Latin Americar	124½	+½		
1270½	1077½	Law Debenturet	1237	-12	2.8	34.4
120	113½	Lite Off Opp	115			
151½	124½	Lloyds Sm Cap	151	+1		
22	17½	Lloyds Sm Dwt	18½		29.0	
168	143	Lloyds Sm Pfgt	168		3.2	
209	173½	Lon St Lawrencet	208½		3.9	32.4
414½	341½	Lowland	404	-½	3.6	34.6
812½	797½	M&G 2nd Dual Cp#	800			
51½	50	M&G 2nd Dual Inc#	50			1.6
98½	75½	M&G Inc Geared†	86½		7.6	17.7
74	54	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	73½	-½		
26½	22½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inct	23½	-½		4.0
182½	150½	M&G Inc Packaget	182	-½	4.1	32.6
80½	77½	M&G Inc Zero Div	78½			
67	31	M&G Rec Cap	66½	-		
93	53½	M&G Rec Geared	92½	...	7.9	17.8
28	22½	M&G Rec Inc	25½		26.5	4.9
198½	160	M&G Rec Pacge	188	-½	3.4	38.0
111½	108⅝	M&G Rec Zero Dv	111¼			
216	180½	M Currie Euro	209½	-2½	0.5	
84½	54½	M Currie Japan	68½	-1		
125½	100½	M Currie Pac	110	+½	2.2	
358	232½	Mayada	357		2.4	54.2
432	355	Merchants	419½	-4	4.3	
164½	132	Mercury Euro Pv	162½	-½	1.7	46.8
82½	50½	Mercury Eur Wt	82	-½		
70½	57½	Mercury World†	70½	+1½	1.4	76.9
1		Mercury Wld Wts				
809	677½	Monks Inv Tst	798½	-2½	1.5	84.7
202	180	Morg Gren Inc	198½	-4	4.3	27.5
97½	80½	Morg Wts	95½	-1		
82	70	Morg Latn Amer	75	-1½	0.5	
32½	22½	Morg Wts	29½			
126½	110½	Murray Ent	121		3.1	43.5
22½	10	Murray Ent Wts	21	-½		
69½	53½	Murray Emg Eco	66½	-½	1.0	
11½	7½	Murray Em Ec Wt	8½			
529½	446	Murray Incomet	517½	-3½	3.5	37.0
494½	431½	Murray Intl	482½	-2½	3.6	32.0
209	205½	Murray S/C OP	209			
395	270	Murray S/C Cap	393	-1		
64½	58½	Murray S/C Inc	59		25.7	4.7
5100	4350	Murray S/C Uts	5075		3.0	
427½	340	Murray Smal	425½	-½	1.8	54.8
406½	379½	Murray Vent	385	-1	4.9	23.0
289	271½	Natwest Ent	286		2.2	44.1
5½	2½	Newmarket	2½			
56½	34½	Pacific Assett	45½	-½	1.1	
118½	83	Perpetual Euro	116½	-½	0.5	
156½	125	Perp Inc Gth	144½	-2	3.4	43.2
37	27½	Perpetual Jap	28½	-½		
377½	322½	Perpt Uk Sm Cot	377½		2.3	48.2
£200½	£168	Personal Assets	£200		1.5	
148½	130½	Prolific Inct	147	-½	3.6	31.5
351	270	RIT Cap Ptn	347	-3	0.7	
545½	516½	Rebecs	526½	+2½	2.0	
553	524	Rolinco	533½	+2½	0.8	
58½	37½	Schrd Asia Pac	50½	-½	1.2	
70½	56½	Schrod Emg Cnt	68½			
165½	142	Schrod Inc Gwtht	162	-1	3.6	29.1
61½	48	Schrod Jap Gwth	51½	-1½		
282½	152	Schrod Korea	215½	+1		
81½	43½	Schrod Spld Cap	79	-2		
135	114½	Schrod Spld Inc	127½		8.6	
160	154½	Schrod Spltl Zero	154½			
174½	142	Schrod UK Gwth	168	-½	2.6	45.4
181½	165½	Schrod Vent Intl	180	-½	1.2	
379½	311	Scot	368½	-3	2.1	58.6
233	183½	Scot American	227	-3	3.0	39.3
144½	91½	Scot Asian	128½	-1		
134½	110½	Scot Eastern†	130	-½	2.0	
390	316½	Scot Mtge	384	-1	1.7	56.3
104	100½	Scot Natl Tst	103½	-½	10.1	10.8
140½	119½	Scot Value	134	-2½	1.9	28.1
2658½	2168½	Second Allnce	2599	-½	2.6	48.6
131½	112½	Secs Tst of Scot	138½	-1½	3.6	35.8
186	149½	Shires Smlr	185		4.2	29.2
164½	133½	Smaller Cost	161		2.6	
385	353	St Andrew Invt	376½	-½	3.3	36.8
802	484	Temple Bar	563½	-2½	4.1	29.6
96½	82½	Throgmorton	95½	-½	3.1	42.3
126½	102½	Tollon Emg Mkt	119½	+½	1.2	62.7
227½	167½	TR Euro Growth	222	-2	0.5	
48½	44½	TR Property	47½	-½	2.8	33.4
412½	374	TR Tech Inv	400	-2	11.9	32.0
350	273	Turkey Trust	350	+10	1.3	
158½	146½	Undervalued Ast	149½	-1½	2.0	66.2
163½	152	Value Inc Tst	162		3.6	33.7
132½	102½	Value Real	130½	-1	0.8	65.5
52½	40½	Warrants & Val	53½	+½		
103½	87½	Wigmore	100		1.0	
385½	310½	Witan	372	-1	2.4	46.0
74½	66½	Yeoman Inc	69		4.1	4.4

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NLA

LEISURE & HOTELS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
29½	11	ABI Leisure	13½			15.1
512½	405½	Airtours	501	+7½	1.7	35.2
30½	23½	Ald Leist	30		4.2	9.5
21	16	Arena Leis	18½			
155	120	BS Group	123½		5.2	
130	110	Baldwint	125		4.0	
120	82	Bluebird Toys	112		10.7	
800	567½	Boosey Hwks	730		1.7	
33½	27½	Borodene	30	+½	8.5	7.7
159½	85	Capital Corpe	96	-½	6.9	
83½	55	Clevedent	74½	+2	3.4	16.9
109½	70½	Clubhaus	91½	-2		24.3
290	223	Eurocamp†	287½		5.5	12.1
100	67	Euro Disney	95	+2		
138½	130½	Euro Leisuret	136		3.9	8.6
173½	100	First Choice	141½	+½	2.5	49.2
367½	269½	First Leisure	367		3.1	20.9
145½	110½	Friendly Hotelst	139	+½	6.3	
1172	837	**Granada**	1067		1.7	21.9
47½	37½	Hi-Tec Sportst	38½		6.5	7.4
289	207½	Holmes Placet	263		1.4	
282½	165½	Hornby	218½		3.7	10.8
370	310	Horeleck	332½		4.2	17.7
183½	148	Jarvis Hotels	174½	-½	3.2	11.2
525½	351½	Jurys Hotel	513½	+3	1.6	24.6
35	24½	Kunick	29½		3.2	15.3
370	250	**Ladbroke**	330½	-7½	2.7	24.1
338½	163½	London Clubs	204½	+12½	5.0	14.7
242½	182½	Macdonald Hls	237½		2.4	17.8
161½	128½	Man Utd†	128½		1.6	20.6
59½	34½	Mandarin Orntt	44½	+½	4.8	
563½	418½	Millennium & Cop	562½		1.9	21.7
1½	1	Mulwall Hldgs	1			
102½	77½	Newcastle Utd†	94½	-½	2.1	10.2
600	400½	Normern	548½	+1	1.8	33.3
74½	54½	Posm Leisure	54½	-½	15.7	3.7
35½	19½	Queensborough	22	-1½	2.3	8.4
26½	12½	Queens Moat	26½	+3½		5.8
421	263½	**Rank Grpt**	404	-6	5.6	15.7
49	38½	Regal Hotelt	42½	-½	3.7	
75½	50½	Ryan Hotels IE	71½	-1	3.0	15.0
1900	1175	Savoy Hotel 'A'†	1557½		1.7	25.5
51½	31½	Sheffield United	32			
252½	232½	Sinclair (Wm)†	243½		4.7	11.8
80	63½	Southampton	71		1.6	
125½	91	Stakis	125½	[illegible]	[illegible]	
276	250½	Stanley Leisure	252½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	4	Tinden	9½			
346	345	Tangorai	345			
194	157	Thistle Hotels	174½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
76½	59½	Tottenham Hot	69½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
201½	135½	Vardon	180	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
395	302½	Westbury	377½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
158½	120	Zetters Gp	151½		[illegible]	[illegible]

MEDIA

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
405	324	Abbot Mead	391½		2.1	
170½	145½	Adscene	157½		6.3	17.5
87½	64½	Aegis Gp	76½	-3½	0.3	
154	70	Aspen Grp	130	-5	2.4	
195	152½	Atlantic Telecom	182½			
79½	50½	BBB Design	66½			
225	185	Barbour Index	130	-4	5.7	
3½	1½	Bakdale	2½			
390	320	Black (A&C)	397½		4.6	
370½	287½	Border Tv	347½			
470	410	Bristol	467½		4.3	15.3
268½	129½	Brit Aircst	254	-2½	0.9	36.6
594	273	**BSkyB†**	425	-5	1.8	
236½	163½	CIA Gp	235½	-1	1.5	
747½	497	Capital Radio	702½		2.4	21.9
561	408	**Carlton Comm**	447	-6	2.8	12.9
286½	145	Character Grp	285	+5	2.0	16.9
742½	602½	Chrysalis	722½		0.5	
84½	77	City of Lon	84½		3.7	13.9
137	88	Cordiant Comms	120	-1	1.5	
171½	143½	Cristmas Pub	171½		6.1	62.7
2500	2084½	Daily Mail	2422½		[illegible]	[illegible]
2481½	2000	Daily Mail 'A'	2437½		[illegible]	[illegible]
189½	129½	Dialog	189½	-2		
247	203	Dorling Kind	227½	-½	2.5	62.5
415	265½	Dudley Jenkins	389	-12½	2.2	27.2
1190	905	EMAP	1123½	-1½	1.4	27.8
685	420	**EMI**	465½	-17	3.5	64.4
1117½	976½	Elsevier	991½	-4½	2.5	50.0
2247½	1495	Euromoney Pb	2125	-22½	1.0	
67	50½	Fitch	66½		1.3	11.7
556	481	Fleetech	511			
206½	117½	GGT Group	201		4.0	30.8
192½	155½	GWR Gp	180		2.3	34.1
395	247½	Gearhouse Group	252½	-2½	3.9	22.7
49½	34½	Goodhead	48½	-	1.3	15.3
435	290	HIT Entn	397½		0.2	13.2
287½	252½	Hayes Publ	285		5.3	12.3
13½	9½	Highbury Hse	11½			
245	204	Hodder H'line	245		3.8	15.2
485	400	Home Counts	445		1.6	
449	355	IBC	433½	-½	2.6	15.4
60	70½	ITE Group	73½			
23½	18½	Incepta	21½			12.9
397½	327½	Independent	347½		2.5	
162	122	Invercrest	122		4.3	
235½	196½	Johnston Press	222½	-1	1.5	17.2
48	30	Loper	45		2.6	3.5
446½	305	Maiden	436½		1.7	
38½	25½	MediaKeyt	31½		2.4	12.5
1075	940	Metal Bulletn	1062½		2.7	26.3
213½	170	Mirror Gpt	196½	-2	4.4	11.3
1190	713	More Gp	1115	-15	1.6	
436½	335	News Corp	420½	-13	0.3	19.9
377	292½	News Corp Prf	371½	-12½	3.6	
308½	252½	Newsquest	300	-½	2.2	16.3
15½	11½	Osprey Comms	11½			
1013	705	**Pearson†**	946	-23	2.6	27.1
55½	34½	Peterfin	39	-1		
922½	867½	Portech Sund	922½		2.3	13.3
75	51½	Quarto†	65		2.1	9.2
730	573	**Reed Intl**	656	-2	3.3	23.8
745	509½	**Reuters†**	677½	-3	2.3	28.3
173½	100½	Saatchi	145½	-1		
748½	661	Scot Medi	725½	-1	2.5	17.4
482	375	Scot Radio	482		2.4	
57½	40½	Shandwick	45½	-½	4.2	12.7
13½	6½	Sleepy Kids	9		1.4	
550	448	Sowtrom	545		1.3	19.9
22½	17½	Sterling Pub	19½		4.3	
114½	85½	Taylor Nelson	105	+1½	1.2	
230	204	Television Cst	229	-1		
1920	1549½	Thomson Corp	1747½	-25	2.5	35.2
573	483½	Trinity Intl	531		3.7	16.5
245	237	Ulster TV	239½		3.4	
831	630	**United News†**	752	-5	3.1	17.1
115½	84½	VCI†	95½	-1	10.5	7.1
105	75½	VTR	102½		5.8	15.6
395	240	WPP	384	-5	0.5	34.4
166½	123½	Wilmington	166		5.3	32.2

MINING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2959¾	2290⅝	Ang Am Coal	2931¼	+52½	6.6	6.9
3300	1975	Ang Am	3300	+81¼	2.5	
2912½	2068½	Ang Am Gold	2723½	-59¾	5.2	
971¼	643½	Anglo Am Plat	968½	+6½	2.7	25.4
2934½	2040⅝	Anglogold	2825	-50	7.4	13.6
22½	15½	Anglo Pac Grp	15½			
31½	22	Arcon Intl	24			
628	411½	Ashanti†	603½	+14½	2.0	
66½	47½	Ashton	48	-½	11.2	
112	47	Avocet	57½			
185	133½	**Billiton†**	172	+6	3.5	14.5
34½	31½	Bresagh	33½		3.5	
38½	15	Bougainville	15½	-½		
299½	222½	Central Pacific	233½	+6½		
49½	21½	Cons Murchison	49½	+½		1.4
1560	1062½	De Beers	1550	-65½	3.7	16.1
429½	337½	Driefontein	382½	+2	3.2	12.4
189½	88	Durban	159½	-½		
87½	57½	E Rand Gold	76½	-½	21.5	3.3
15	10½	E Rand Prop	12½		21.6	
253½	128½	Elandsrand	234½	+1½	7.3	
273½	219½	Eng China Cl†	240	+1	6.8	11.2
126½	92	Exonder	123½	+½	12.4	
340½	92	FS Cons	323½	+1½	11.5	6.7
32½	17	FS Dev	32½			
1040½	734½	GFSA	1025	+6½	2.6	21.0
142½	85½	Gencor	141½	+½	2.7	9.2
135½	98½	Gold Fields Prop	135½	+½	5.7	14.7
29½	14½	Greenwich R 'A'	21	-½		
57	31½	Grootvlei Cons	52½	+½	1.5	9.5
275½	112½	Harmony	272½	+1½		8.5
712½	429½	Impala Plat	695½	+3½	2.4	14.0
13½	9½	Kenmare Res	11	+½		
22	14	Kidston	21			
11½	7	Meekatharra	7½	+½		
39	29	MIM	38½	+6½	2.5	
1087½	900	Minorco†	1025	+6½	3.7	
105	65	Montagelt	97	+5	4.9	
73½	53	Normandy	68½	+1	3.4	14.7
177½	152½	North	163½	+5½	3.1	23.2
60	22½	Petaling Tin	34½	+½	1.4	
111	64½	RGC	74½	+1½	5.2	3.9
142½	80	RJB	119	-2½	22.9	
29½	24½	Rockwood	27		16.7	
155½	77½	Randfontein	144½	+½	4.1	15.4
121½	82½	Reunion Mng	82½	-2½		
894	641	**Rio Tinto†**	830	-2	3.6	15.6
837½	686½	Rio Tinto Ltd	824	+27½	3.3	20.3
7	4	St Barbara	5½	-		
191	128	St Helena	164½	+½	19.3	2.4
192½	136½	Sons Gwalia	170½	+1½	5.8	12.2
130½	100½	Sthern Pacific	101	-1½		
1175	793½	Southvaal	1131¼	+6½	10.3	
228½	177½	WMC†	208	+½	2.3	26.3
27	12	Wankie Col Z	14½	+½	7.8	5.0
67½	40½	Water Hall	41½	-2½		
443	385	Waltz Blake	395		5.8	
1553½	975	Western Deep	1484½	+9½	5.4	
149	109½	Zambia Copper	135½	+½		

OIL & GAS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
212	155½	Abbot Group	204½	-4½	1.6	
32½	19½	Alliance Res	23			
64½	54	Aminex	62½			
77	63½	Aus Oil & Gas	64	+		
27½	9½	Aviva Pet	13½			
430	298½	Br Borneo	350½		1.0	
343	265	BG	301	+2	3.4	25.7
959	708½	**Br Petroleum†**	886½	+3	3.1	19.7
1½	0½	Buia Resources	1			
1275	885	Burmah Castrl	1142	-10	3.5	16.8
486½	323½	Cairn Energy	350½	-1½		
119	82	**Centrica**	107½	-2½		
14½	10½	Copley Res	11½			
22½	19½	Dana Pet	21½			
72½	51½	Dragon Oil	59	+½		
28½	19½	Eden Oil & Gst	21½		1.7	15.8
10	5½	Emerald Energy	5½			
598½	510	**Enterprise**	529	-9	4.1	27.7
14½	11	Fortune	11½			42.3
300½	241½	Hardy Oil	257½		0.5	
47½	33½	JKX Oil & Gas	35			
385	300½	KBC Adv Tech	353½	+1½	1.2	31.3
300	240	**LASMO†**	258	-½	0.9	69.2
42½	35½	Lasmo Unlst	39		21.6	
84½	58	Monument	58½			
2990¾	2612½	Norsk Hydro	2840¾	+28¾	1.9	9.3
127	97	Oil Search	115½	+½		
58½	41½	Petroz	45½	+2		
54½	37	Premier†	37½	+½	2.0	7.9
58	29½	Piccennell Rs	34½			
414	331	Ranger	410½	+16	4.6	7.5
3616½	3031½	Royal Dtch Fl	3353½	-12½	2.7	26.1
4675	3335	[illegible]	4550½	-37½	1.9	
[illegible]	[illegible]	**Shell**	427½	-½	3.2	24.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	376½			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4469½	+105½	1.5	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	247½			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
129½	87½	Aberdeen Asset	125		2.5	37.6
[illegible]	427	**AMVESCAP†**	[illegible]	-4	1.0	21.4
139½	120½	BAID*	138½		4.7	17.9
55½	45½	Berry Bch Nbl	47½		7.9	11.8
294	247	[illegible]	262½	-½		
357½	245½	Brewin Dolphin	352½		3.4	17.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	Cattles	895	-1½	2.7	23.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	Camelia	4300		1.1	16.9
675	[illegible]	[illegible]	576	-5	1.6	32.8
47½	37½	[illegible]	39½		3.2	12.9
795	525½	Close Brost	783		2.1	33.8
683	433	[illegible]	657½	-22½	6.6	13.4
37½	20	Ecce	34		2.9	
35½	19½	Fichers Int	32½	-½	2.5	
215½	137	Friends Ivory Sime	215½	...	4.3	
379	332	Gerrard	374	-8½	6.3	26.8
230½	225½	Hambros	225	-½	3.3	27.3
1705	1425	Henderson	1625		3.6	22.4
182½	148½	Hitachi Cred	159½	...	2.7	16.4
192	145	Investment Co	175		2.5	
177½	136½	Jardine Stratt	154	-½	5.6	
164½	111½	Johnson Fry	159½	-4½	3.1	
600	573	Leopold J	590		4.3	35.4
619½	462½	Liberty Hldt	615½	-2	1.6	26.9
470½	343½	Lon Forfaiting†	437½	-7½	3.5	14.6
217½	167½	London Pacific	193		2.6	
162	112½	Lon Scot Bk	147		2.9	26.0
253½	222½	Man ED & F	250	-2	5.6	10.0
1925	1457½	M & G	1910	-20	2.8	29.3
227½	192½	Paragon▲	220		1.5	9.3
4320	2682½	Perpetual	4027½	-217½	1.9	27.2
1015	795	Provident	997	+7	2.5	27.1
617	402	Rathbone Brst	570	-10	3.1	22.8
69½	54½	Rea Brothers†	68		1.8	13.6
62½	49½	Rutland Tst	50½		3.5	
107½	80	SEC Group	82½	+½	7.7	6.4
330	317½	S & U	330		5.9	10.3
2595	1730	**Schroders†**	2556	-74	1.0	32.3
2532	1525	Schroders N/V	2406	-74	1.2	27.5
775	610	Secure Tst	752½		3.8	
185½	138½	Singer & Fried	176½	-5	4.0	12.0
62½	45½	Town Law	61½			
5½	3½	Tns Hdge	3½			
61½	61½	Lawon	61½	-1½		
61	45½	Versailles Gp	50½		1.1	30.4
427½	397½	Wiltons	427½		4.1	17.7

PHARMACEUTICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
152	56	Brit Biotech	59	-½		
750	600	Cantab Pharms	627½			
322½	272½	Celltech	235	-1		
366½	230	Chiroscience	307½	-9		
29½	85	Core Group	85	-6		
215	162	Cortecs	173	-1		
1953	1330	**Glaxo Wellc**	1660	-13	2.3	36.1
135	81½	ML Laboratories	91½			
195	140	Medeva	160½	-½	3.4	7.5
386	165	Oxford Molecular	181½	-5		
510	265	Peptide Thera	288	-½		
513½	194½	Powderject	500	+1		
92½	43½	Proteus Intl	65	+½		
71	53	Parsons (Wm)	61½		5.2	12.4
181½	121½	Quadrant Health	177½	-2½		
322½	260	Scotia	310			
456	235½	Shire Pharms	413½	-7		
103½	47½	Shieldpharma	92	-½		
988	618	**SmithKline**	721	-4	1.5	39.4
223	172	Therp Anti Inc	176			
665	422½	Vanguard	622½			
160	45½	Vanguard Wts	174½			
145		Xenova	174			
2550	2114	**Zeneca†**	2500	-75	1.9	32.5

PRINTING & PAPER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
94	84	AG Holdings	84		9.6	12.1
640	520	API	630		2.4	17.4
117½	89½	Acc Hold	93			
203½	145½	Arjo Wiggins	198½	-2	4.0	10.6
21	19	Ashl Press	19½		3.5	8.1
425½	425½	Bemrose	454½		4.5	
193½	144½	Bingen	178½	-1½	2.0	
3571½	2673	Bowater Inc	3496½	+3½		
313½	233½	Bowater Indt	289½		1.4	
532	455	Br Polythene†	482½	+1½	5.2	
291	219½	Bunzl	267	-1½	2.6	14.9
141½	116½	Capital Indst	133½	+5	5.7	
281½	226½	Cropper (James)	225½		2.6	8.1
399	266½	De La Rue	303½	+1½	9.9	7.9
274½	252½	Dolphin Pack	267½	-5	3.9	12.3
68½	62½	Fairway Group	68½		7.3	21.1
100	72	Ferguson Intl	87		19.0	6.6
197½	145½	Filotex	186		2.6	13.0
82	55½	Inveresk†	65		11.1	9.6
219½	185½	Jarvis Porter	218½		4.3	12.3
561	394	Low & Bonar†	352	-½	4.7	11.8
25½	19½	Lowe (Robert)	23		2.2	9.3
79½	65½	LST Holdings	77½		4.4	10.5
177½	132½	Macfarlane	155	+1½	3.7	
335	213½	Photobition	265	-10½	0.7	43.9
174½	140½	Pirtsu	172½		5.8	13.1
37½	25½	Porter Chadbrn	28½		3.8	8.5
299½	229	REXAM†	267½	-7½	7.1	10.9
532½	500	St Ives Gp	530	+1	2.7	16.3
354½	227½	Sappi	351½	+1½	2.3	
58½	20	Security & General	54½	-2		
122½	92½	Skillion	113½		2.5	31.2
235½	165½	Smith David	205½	-2	4.9	12.9
191½	156	Smurfit (Jeff)	189½	-½	2.4	
168	105	Sonic	112	+2	3.5	12.2
145	133½	Tinsley Robor	142½	-½	2.6	15.8
20	16	Waco	33	-2		
389½	247½	Waddington	373	-½	4.9	12.1
347½	268	Watmough	347		3.8	17.8
387½	223	Wyndeham	285½		2.4	17.3

PROPERTY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
116½	91	Allied Lon	114½	...	4.5	8.2
195	155½	Asda	184½		2.1	24.2
34½	28½	Ashtenay Gp	33½	-½		
164½	135½	Asbbrmg Hldgs	164½	+7	3.8	17.7
278½	243½	Benchmark	270	-1	2.2	36.1
282½	253½	Bilton†	276½	-4	5.0	20.2
173½	149	Birkby	157½		6.9	10.5
4½	3	Bolton Gp	3½			
64	53½	Bourne End	61½		2.5	
320½	276½	Bradford	320½	+½	3.4	22.4
825	645	**Br Land**	748	-11	1.4	42.7
255	213	Brixton†	247½		4.7	20.1
132	100	Burford	127		2.3	
147	132	CLS Hldgst	140		5.0	
318½	246½	Cap & Regnl▼	284	+½	1.5	27.7
460	407½	Cap Shop Cnst	450		2.6	23.4
323½	263½	Cardiff Prop	322½		1.2	29.6
16	9½	Carlisle	14½	-½		59.9
13½	8½	Cathay Intl	9½	-½		
418½	343½	Chelsfieldt	374	-½	1.1	
620	590	Chesterfield	618½	+2½	2.7	
37	29	Chesterton Intl#	36			
53½	34½	City Site Ests	36			28.8
107	90	Cleveland Tst	97		7.9	12.1
95½	82½	CNC Props	89½	-2½	4.7	
243½	185½	Compco	243½		2.2	20.3
1685	1605	Daejan	1685		3.0	16.1
21	15½	Dares Estates	16½		10.0	
126½	95½	Debenham Twsn	113		3.1	13.3
85	69½	Delancey Ests	83		2.3	16.9
232½	192½	Dencora	220½	+½	2.8	
590	552½	Derwent Hldgs	590	...	1.4	
355	283½	Development Sec	336½	-1	1.0	20.8
205½	172½	Edge Properties	300½		21.4	
420	410	Estates Agencyt	420		5.5	19.1
85	75½	Estates Genl	78½		1.3	20.3
155½	139½	Evans Of Leeds	153½		2.9	17.9
42½	36½	Fletcher King	40		8.2	13.2
67½	61½	Folkes Group	66½	-½	3.7	4.8
66	57½	Folkes Group nv	66		3.7	4.8
540	461	Frogmore†	534		4.7	14.0
19	14½	Golden Land Inv	15½			
370	322	Grainger	364	+1	2.8	
296	237½	Gr Portland	278½	-8½	4.0	30.6
196½	159	Grantchester	193½		0.6	58.3
228½	214½	Greycoat	216		0.9	28.3
147½	104½	Hambro Countt	138	-1½	2.7	8.9
537½	465½	Hammerson†	526	+1	2.8	31.0
33½	25½	Hampton Trust	30			
608	555	Helical Bar	606½		2.1	16.6
50	46½	Henningway	49½		1.4	16.4
130½	69½	HK Land†	91	-1½	7.8	
282	200	Jermyn▼	291		2.6	72.5
134½	94	LSH	115½		1.7	8.4
95½	84½	Lands Impt	87½		6.8	
1190	837½	**Land Secs**	1057	-2	3.2	30.4
36½	31	Lon & Assoc	35½		3.2	
15	9½	Lon & Metro	14½			1.0
136½	118½	Lon Merch Sec	134½		4.8	12.4
607½	509½	MEPC	599	+1	3.6	27.2
119½	99½	MWB Group	111½		4.2	
150	132	McKay Secs	149		3.7	21.0
89½	65½	Merivale Moet	85½	-1	3.3	7.7
353	270	Milner Est	345		2.5	16.5
229½	202½	Minerva▼	221½	-2½	0.9	
35	25	Moorfield Estt	34½		2.0	
1900	1681½	Mountview	1700		3.1	11.9
189	156½	Muckow (A&J)	165	-1½	5.5	18.0
35	31	OEM	33½		1.8	
74½	52½	ORB	66½		29.0	
38½	31½	Olives Prop	37½		2.4	
685	635	Peel	682½		1.5	
325½	277	Pillar Prop	324		2.0	47.1
13½	7½	Premier Land	9	+½		
204½	189	Quantum	196½		2.2	32.8
28½	24½	Raglan	24½	-½	6.1	9.8
35½	28	Regalian	32½		4.1	16.0
202½	157½	Rugby Est	190		1.8	
81½	67½	St Modwen Prpt	78	+½	4.8	9.5
73	58	Savile Grdn	71½		5.2	27.1
143	111½	Savills	137½	-2½	3.5	9.3
101½	92	Scot Met	100		5.3	17.6
232	217	Shaftesbury	227		1.3	52.6
414½	342½	Slough Estates	381	+1	2.7	25.4
262½	247½	Smart (J)	247½		4.9	9.2
100½	93	TBI	97		2.6	31.8
195½	178½	Tops Ests	178½		1.8	38.6
118	102	Town Centre	117		4.2	14.5
160½	149½	Trafford Park	160½	+½	3.2	17.5
103½	87½	Uk Land	100½		3.7	13.7
278½	251½	Warner	267½		6.0	18.8
260	255	Warnford	260		3.7	16.4
110½	95½	Wates▲	96			
450½	345½	Workspace Grp	446½	-1	4.3	16.4

RETAILERS, FOOD

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
227½	173	**ASDA Group**	213	-3	1.8	20.0
73½	56	Budgen	68½	+½	2.6	14.0
76½	55½	Dairy Farm Intl	73½	+1½	4.8	
212½	157	Farepak	181		4.0	11.6
40½	37½	Fitzwilton	37½		7.6	10.3
150	95	Fyffes	145		1.4	17.0
2512½	1935	Greggs†	2417½	-4		1.9
218	119	Iceland Group†	218	+2	3.1	17.1
421½	282	Kwik Save	414½		6.0	14.9
270	227½	Morrison (W)†	269½		1.0	21.6
50	38	Park Foods	49		7.6	14.2
402	330	**Safeway**	365	+1	4.8	13.1
567	370	**Sainsbury J**	482	-17	3.3	19.6
366½	207½	Somerfield	357½	-½	3.7	12.1
280½	194½	T & S Stores	279½		3.9	
620	485	**Tesco**	582	-8	3.3	22.3
293½	258½	Thorntons†	284	-1	2.6	22.5
590	505	Watson& Philip	581½		4.0	16.2

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
303½	253½	Alexon	253½	-3		
266	204	Alders	204		4.9	10.0
180	145½	Allied Carpet	146½		6.6	11.4
508	361½	Arcadia	448		0.3	18.1
683	390	Argos	634½	-½	1.7	20.1
41½	19½	Ashley (Laura)	35½	+2		
190½	165½	Austin Reed	166½	-1	5.1	11.1
372½	305½	Beale	327½		3.9	10.5
187½	157	Beattie (J)	180		2.1	
125	119½	Bentalls	132½		2.7	4.6
398½	339½	Blacks Leis	343½	-14	1.6	13.3
145	109	Body Shop	117½		5.3	12.4
591	502	**Boots†**	515	-35	2.9	21.2
67½	30½	Brown & Jackson	39½		10.4	
403	369	Brown (N)	373½	-3½	2.4	30.6
505	363½	Carpetright	381½	+11½	6.9	12.6
263	227	Chrystes Intl	245		2.8	18.7
432½	398	Church†	406½	-2½	5.2	
132½	95½	Clinton Cards	125½	-½	3.0	
271½	169½	Country Gons	215½	-3	1.1	15.6
432½	332½	Courts Furnish	410		1.2	17.7
587½	398	DFS Furniture	305½	-2	5.2	12.3
433	344	Debenhams	372½	-4½	0.7	17.6
628	453	Dixons Grp	565	-10	2.4	17.0
81½	45½	Elec Boutique	81½	+3½		
4½	3	ERA Gp	4½			
70½	46½	Etam Fern	50½		9.3	10.2
170	153	Falkland Isl	155	-1½		16.9
198½	162½	Fine Art Dev	195½		6.2	15.1
329½	203½	Freed Earth	303½		1.4	
564	435½	Flying Flw Utl	518½	-7	1.8	
117½	95½	Formminster	116½		2.7	49.6
462½	355	French Connt	462½	+2½	0.9	16.4
45½	34½	Gaves	36½		3.9	
282½	217½	Goldsmiths Gp	273		3.7	
149½	127½	Grampian Hldg	135½		6.2	11.1
830	700	**GUS**	820	-8½	2.8	21.4
294½	220½	Hamleys	271½	-1	5.2	
116½	75	Hampden Grp	107½	-5	3.4	10.4
342½	269½	Harveys Fum	299½		2.9	31.1
221½	144½	Hse of Fraser†	148	+½	4.6	16.3
158	117½	Hughes (TJ)▼	158	+1½	4.3	
953½	489	JJB Sports	539	-6	1.2	26.1
1201	708½	**Kingfisher†**	1107	-7	2.6	30.1
355	290	Liberty	287½		1.2	
44½	25½	Limelight	30½			
141	79½	MFI	91½	-1½	6.7	9.9
654	489	**Marks Spencer**	569½	-5½	2.9	20.2
46½	35½	Merchant Retail	45½		1.0	32.6
291½	216½	Moss Bros	277½		2.7	
860	507	**Next**	514	-12	4.5	13.5
33½	25	Oliver (G)	27½			
477	382½	OnRame Intl	476		3.3	15.2
85	43½	Partners	45		1.4	8.3
88½	79½	Partridge Finet	81		7.7	7.0
29½	25½	QS Hldgs	27½			
320	277	Rosebyt	278½		5.3	
107½	85½	Save Group	90	+1	10.3	
64	46½	Sears	64	+3	7.3	48.6
44½	39	Signet Group	43½	-½		2.2
587½	389½	Smith WH	573		3.4	
1300	1050	Sothebys	1280½		1.9	
272	216	Storehouse	251	+1	4.2	12.6
92	70½	Stylo	72½	-1	8.0	
221½	140½	Thorn	205	+14	8.1	11.3
127½	82½	Tie Rack	83½		5.0	9.4
3½	2½	Upton & South	2½		26.6	
345½	261½	Wickes	339½		0.7	35.9
373½	280½	Wyevale†	341	-2½	2.5	21.9

SUPPORT SERVICES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
743½	535	AEA Tech	725	+4	1.5	34.5
205½	129½	Acorn	173½	-13½		
200	152½	Aggreko	187½	-2	3.5	22.9
93	68	Alpha Airpts	91		7.3	8.7
53	32½	Alphameric	35½			17.4
79	47	Amte Grp	65			
533½	362½	Atkins WS	499	-2	1.8	29.4
214½	160	BNB Res	210½	-½	4.6	12.3
790	507½	BPP†	727½		2.7	25.7
783½	641	BTG	641	-4	0.2	
38	17½	Br Thornton	36			
110½	79½	Brooks Servicet	109		4.6	
885	568½	Business Post	885	+2½	1.6	38.0
2700	1517½	CMG†	2565	-25	0.4	66.2
469	336	CRT Gpt	439		1.2	61.1
972½	812½	Cairn Gp	937½	-10	1.6	
467½	311½	Capita Group†	463	-4½	0.6	71.8
8½	6½	Chemer	7½		3.3	9.5
257	212½	Corp Servicest	255	+½	2.9	18.8
31½	24½	Coutts Consltg	25		0.5	
532½	317½	DCS Gpt	527	+1	0.5	
332½	235	Danka Bs Sys	330	+11	1.1	14.2
430	302	Davis Servicet	395½	+6	3.6	21.7
830	670	Delphi	730	-27½	1.2	
1017½	682½	Diagonal†	992½		0.3	75.5
27½	19½	Eurocopy	20½		14.6	3.4
67½	51½	EW Fact	55	-½	4.6	
75½	51	El Data Prc	74½		3.7	16.6
1502½	927½	FI Group	1377½		0.5	76.5
496½	409	Guardian IT	455	-14		79.6
455	337	Harvey Nash	454	+14	1.1	
1145	773	**Hays**	1110	+4½	1.1	38.4
58	51½	High-PointRndt	57½			
289	255½	Hogg Robinson	282½		4.5	13.2
1257½	585	JBA Hldgs	590		1.1	54.9
311	232½	Johnson Cleant	286	-1½	5.5	
69½	42½	Kalamazoo	42½	-3	12.5	
847½	570	Kewill Sys	847½		1.5	20.7
24½	13½	Laser-Scan	21	-½		
502½	317½	Lavendont	477½	-12	1.0	31.0
1657½	1147½	Logica	1580	-7½	0.8	45.4
795	505	Lorent	761		1.2	47.4
301	120½	Lynx Group	198	-½	1.3	29.0
75½	42½	MDIS	74	+½		
1015	772½	MMT Comp	992½	+7½	1.4	33.4
147½	109½	MR Group	130		3.8	17.2
430	330	Macro 4†	430		7.5	12.4
73½	52½	Menlmore Abbey	73		1.1	21.9
721	478½	Micro Focus	567½	-15		41.9
121½	95	Microgen	118½	+1	5.3	15.8
3300	1825	Misys	2830	+20	0.6	47.3
282½	230½	MITIE Gp	273	-1½	1.0	30.6
53½	51½	Novo Group	53½		3.7	12.1
55½	41½	Orbis	50½	-½	3.3	13.5
680	500	PSD†	627½	-10	1.7	24.2
836½	635	Parity	787½		0.8	
366	240	Pegasus	345	-2½	2.8	11.7
242½	145	Penna	216½	+2½	1.3	11.1
256½	151	Photo-Me	233½	-1	2.9	22.5
50½	35	Proudfoot	49½		1.3	11.7
247½	165	RCO	230	-2½	8.7	29.7
300	218½	RPS Group†	258½	+3½	2.0	24.6
53	25½	Radius†	48½		2.8	
447½	317½	Real Time	427½	-1	1.8	14.7
113½	79	Rebus	101	-½	2.4	22.1
193	119½	Reed Executive	173½		2.2	
180	162	Reliance Sec	180	+5	4.8	15.9
418	266	**Rentokil Int†**	385	-9	1.0	37.3
205½	152½	Ricardo Groupt	191	-2½	4.3	24.0
576	455	Robert Walters†	545½	-½	0.9	35.1
510	275	Rolfe & Nolan	390	+20		65.3
382½	297½	Royalblue	330	-2½	0.9	44.5
1430	825	Sage Gp	1185	-20	0.3	50.5
157	74	Sanderson	137½	+5	4.5	13.0
851½	551	Select Appt	851½	+9	0.5	36.5
2405	1475	Serna Gp	2187½	-82½	0.4	55.8
1310	868	Serco Gpt	1195	-24½	0.7	50.0
185½	154½	Shanks & McEwan	178½	-½	2.8	22.5
905	520	Shorwd Intl	850	-5	0.8	35.8
74	44	Simon Grp	65½	-2	1.2	17.2
61	37½	Sketchley	50½			
285	181½	Shiftsgroupt	267½		2.0	24.5
125	103	Sta-Plast	104		13.8	10.3
187	92	Superscape VR	151	-1½		
116½	85	Torext	108½	+12	2.6	18.1
3300	2250	Tyco Intl	3050		0.2	
126½	86½	WSP Group†	100		3.5	13.9
225	208	Warner Howard	209		6.5	9.5
230	176	Waste Mgt Intl	229			40.4
415½	332½	Waste Recyclt	403½		0.8	37.2
238½	199	Whitehead Mann	233½		2.5	19.3
82½	62½	White Young Grn	80	+4½	5.6	12.1
500	304	**Williams**	455	-15	3.5	21.2

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
718½	411½	**BT**	635½	-21	3.7	18.4
1637½	614½	COLT Telecom	1285	-32½		
765	467½	**Cable Wireless**	719½	-28½	1.9	30.2
438½	264½	Cable&Wire Coms	407½			
755	252½	Energis	642½	-9		
308	250	Euro Telecom	306½		1.1	25.8
171	77½	General Cable	163	-2		
445	239½	**Orange**	405	-12		
422	286½	Securicor	407½	-4½	0.5	52.9
95½	69½	TeleWest	86½	+1		
694	298	**Vodafone**	611½	-3½	1.1	50.5

TRANSPORT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
316½	210	Air London	316½	+2½	2.6	19.4
357	219	All Nippon Air	250½	-8½	0.5	
518	344½	Arriva†	441	-34	3.8	12.5
388	282½	Assoc Br Portst	356½	-1	3.2	17.5
367	284½	Autologic	359		2.6	
244	166½	Avis Europe	223½	-3	1.8	23.0
640	402½	**BAA**	615	-18	2.6	18.8
651	498	**Br Airways**	607½	-½	3.2	30.4
110½	90½	Clarkson (H)	100½		5.1	
179½	135½	Clydeport Ops	175½		4.0	
352½	317½	Dart	352½		2.4	17.3
67½	43½	Eurotunnel Uts	56	-3		
393	221½	FirstGroup	393	+2	1.9	28.0
140	125	Fisher (James)†	125		3.2	
690	580	Forth Ports	640	-10	1.9	
600	510	Go-Ahead†	581½	+11½	1.9	13.9
601½	498	Goode Durrant	590½	-2	2.2	17.4
441	305½	Helphire Gp	347½	-11	0.3	42.7
1055	740	Irish Cont	1055		0.5	22.5
88½	74½	Jacobs†	88½		3.2	38.5
92½	60	Lon O'Seas Frts	67½			
615	490	Mersey Docks†	612½		3.8	23.5
187½	138½	NFC	180½	+½	3.9	18.9
913½	676	Natl Express†	911	-1	1.9	20.5
805	562½	Ocean Groupt	797½	+4	2.3	24.5
104½	92½	Ocean Wilson	98½	+1½	4.8	17.7
933½	650	**P & O Dfdt**	893	-7	4.3	20.2
116½	107½	P & O 5.5%	112½	+½	6.1	
1093½	571½	**Railtrack**	963	-27	2.9	18.3
130	98	Sampson (C)	116		6.2	16.7
47½	36	Seacon	40		3.9	30.4
296½	244	Seascope Shp	290		5.4	
311½	180	Servisairt	256½	-½	2.6	20.7
1033½	765	Stagecoach	1033½	+3	1.2	23.5
628	547½	Tibbet & Britn	562½	+2½	4.0	
300	251	TDG†	290½		7.2	18.9
116½	75½	Uptrend	104½		6.1	
72½	39½	Utd Carriers†	58½		7.5	

WATER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
967	780	Anglian	934	-1	4.8	12.8
335	285	East Surrey	307	-3	4.6	12.4
1053½	907	Hyder	972½		5.8	8.2
124½	115½	Hyder Cm Pf	123½		8.0	
770	680	Mid Kent Hdgs	765		5.1	11.4
1085	865	**Severn Trent**	964	-13½	4.9	10.6
3635	3265	South Staffs	3630	-5	3.2	15.0
1002	864½	South West	997½	-5	4.8	13.5
1043	800	**Thames**	945	-34	4.7	10.6
906	658	**Utd Utilities**	840	-13	5.7	13.6
550	465	Wessex	512½	+½	4.6	9.9
550	467½	Yorkshire	507½	-6	4.8	9.9

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
225	193	Cafe Inc	219	+½	1.7	16.6
202½	155	Dawson Hdgs	185		3.2	16.6
38½	29	Freepages	37½			
65½	52	Megalomedia	62½		0.5	21.6
35	21½	Memory Corp	24½			
490	344	Prism Rail	410	-19	2.7	
847½	620	Ramco Egy	670	-2½		
810	740	Southern News	807½		3.3	15.8
94½	84½	Southern Vectis	87½	...	3.0	13.6
27½	14½	Trocadero†	25½			

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. ◊ Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
116	116	Treas 4¾% 1998	116		3.96	7.18
100	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.65
102	100	Treas 14% 1998-01	100		13.91	7.02
105	103	Treas 15½% 1998	103		14.96	6.96
104	102	Exch 12% 1998	102		11.67	6.98
102	101	Treas 9½% 1999	101		9.33	6.87
106	104	Exch 12¼% 1999	104		11.69	6.88
104	103	Treas 10½% 1999	103		10.12	6.84
99	97	Treas 6% 1999	98		6.05	6.72
106	105	Conv 10¼% 1999	105		9.74	6.71
105	104	Conv 9% 2000	104		8.64	6.58
104	103	Treas 8% 2000	103		7.71	6.42
103	102	Treas 8½% 2000	103		8.24	6.58
114	113	Treas 13% 2000	113		11.49	6.60
109	108	Treas 10% 2001	109		9.16	6.60
102	101	Treas 7% 2001	102		6.84	6.26

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
103	101	Treas 7% 2002	103		6.79	6.17
113	112	Treas 9¾% 2002	113		8.59	6.18
108	106	Treas 8% 2003	108		7.37	5.92
118	116	Treas 10% 2003	117		8.48	6.03
114	113	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113		10.16	6.44
93	90	Fund 3½% 1999-04	92		3.76	4.81
119	116	Conv 9½% 2004	118		8.00	5.96
104	101	Treas 6¾% 2004	104		6.45	5.89
116	113	Treas 8½% 2005	115		7.33	5.87
120	117	Conv 9½% 2005	120		7.91	5.95
130	126	Treas 12½% 2003-05	130		9.59	6.02
111	107	Treas 7½% 2006	111		6.75	5.77
112	108	Treas 7¾% 2006	112		6.90	5.86
107	105	Treas 8% 2002-06	106		7.48	6.21
122	121	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122		9.52	6.11
119	115	Treas 8½% 2007	118		7.15	5.83
111	106	Treas 7¼% 2007	110		6.54	5.77
125	121	Treas 9% 2008	125	+	7.19	5.77
118	113	Treas 8% 2009	118	+	6.76	5.77
104	99	Treas 6¼% 2010	104	+	5.99	5.76
129	124	Conv 9% 2011	129	+	6.95	5.78
131	125	Treas 9% 2012	130	+	6.88	5.79
98	93	Treas 5½% 2008-12	98	+	5.58	5.64
118	112	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	118	+	6.58	5.81

LONGS (over 15 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
122	116	Treas 8% 2013	122	+	6.54	5.79
125	118	Treas 8% 2015	125	+	6.39	5.71
135	127	Treas 8¾% 2017	135	+	6.48	5.73
129	121	Tr 8% 2021	129	+	6.17	5.68

UNDATED

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
60	55	War Ln 3½%	60	-	5.76	
42	38	Treas 2½%	42		5.93	
67	61	Consols 4%	66	+	6.02	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	5%	3%
198	194	Treas IL 2½% 2001	198	+	2.75	3.06
195	192	Treas IL 2½% 2003	195	+	2.82	3.02
126	124	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	126	+	2.73	2.90
212	206	Treas IL 2% 2006	212	+	2.79	2.91
193	187	Treas IL 2½% 2009	192	+	2.80	2.90
203	185	Treas IL 2½% 2011	202		2.80	2.89
169	162	Treas IL 2½% 2013	168		2.80	2.87
184	175	Treas IL 2½% 2016	183		2.79	2.86
179	170	Treas IL 2½% 2020	179		2.81	2.87
151	142	Treas IL 2½% 2024	151		2.79	2.84
149	140	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	149		2.76	2.81

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REVERIE 30
Tinseltown trio face fresh trials

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY APRIL 18 1998

Energy boost as Texas bid is cleared

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BID FEVER returned to The Energy Group shares yesterday after Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, cleared the way for the £4.45 billion offer from Texas Utilities, the US Group.

Clearance of the offer, which had not been expected until next week, pushed shares in Energy beyond Texas's 840p-a-share offer as the market braced itself for a possible return by PacifiCorp, the US utility, which last bid 820p a share. Shares in Energy, which owns Eastern Electricity in the UK and the US's Peabody Coal, rose 8p to 852p.

PacifiCorp was last night considering its position but saying little about the clearance of the Texas offer. PacifiCorp had mounted a strong campaign, urging referral of the Texas bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. PacifiCorp's first offer for Energy had been referred by Mrs Beckett last year.

Mrs Beckett said: "I have said that my general policy is that I will refer mergers primarily on competition grounds, but where important regulatory issues are raised I may decide that a reference is warranted."

Energy has not recommended either the offer from Texas or that from PacifiCorp to shareholders. Yesterday it said it would advise investors as soon as possible.

Erle Nye, chairman and chief executive of Texas, said he was "delighted" by the announcement and confident the remaining requirement of clearance from US authorities for the sale of Peabody Coal would soon be granted.

Texas promised Mrs Beckett that the finances of Energy would be ring-fenced after demands from the electricity regulator and the Office of Fair Trading. There had been concerns that a new company could sap Energy of cash if sufficient restrictions were not put in place.

Malaysians to inject £43.7m into Ashley

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND FRASER NELSON

LAURA ASHLEY, the disaster prone retailer, has been bailed out by a Malaysian industrial conglomerate.

Malayan United Industries is proposing to put £43.7 million into the company at 28p per newly issued share — 7½p below yesterday's closing share price. It will become the largest shareholder with a 40 per cent stake.

Laura Ashley, which parted company late last year with Ann Iverson, its high-profile American chief executive, said that if shareholders did not agree to the deal, and no other backers were found, talks would have to be held with the group's banks about its future.

As part of the deal, a MUI executive, Victoria Egan, will become deputy chief executive of the group, while another, Paul Ng, will be made president of the American operations, the worst performing part of the business. Two other MUI bosses become non-executive directors.

Laura Ashley said yesterday that it lost £49.3 million after tax and exceptional items in the year to January 31, compared with a £16.2 million profit. Sales in the first ten weeks of this year have plunged a further 14 per cent and analysts are not expecting the group to make a profit again until 2001.

David Hoare, Ms Iverson's replacement, said that the company would be changing its look in order to appeal to 30 to 50-year-olds rather than the 15-25-year-olds, who were unsuccessfully targeted by his predecessor. The new range will look more like the flowery creations that made Laura Ashley such a huge success in the 1970s: "We need to focus on the quintessentially English country look, and towards a section of the market that is less competitive than the very fast moving youth retailing market," Mr Hoare said.

Once the new shares are issued, Sir Bernard Ashley, widower of Laura and co-founder of the group, will see his stake reduced from 35 to 21 per cent. He and his son, the designer Nick Ashley, became heavily involved in the day-to-day running of the company in the last days of Ms Iverson, but have since taken a back seat.

Jusco, the Japanese retailer, will see its stake reduced from 15 per cent to 9 per cent.

Mr Hoare said he did not wish to criticise Ms Iverson, who left the company with a £450,000 pay-off. But he said that the expansion in the US — the cornerstone of her strategy — had been badly handled. "We have clearly mismanaged our business," he said.

The company is planning to close six of its 32 larger stores in the US. The exercise will cost about £20 million of the MUI investment. A further £6.5 million will be invested in the UK and continental Europe and the remaining £17.2 million will be used to repay some bank debts.

MUI, which is mostly known for its concrete-making business, is itself under some financial pressure. Its shares, which trade on the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange, have lost 66 per cent of their value over the past 12 months.

It has diverse investments which are a legacy of Asia's property boom, where it made its money. It ploughed spare cash into investments ranging from Regal Hotels to the South China Morning Post.

Commentary, page 29
Hot Seat, page 30



Laura Ashley's popular English country look of the Seventies is likely to make a comeback

Lonrho's buyback faces challenge from US

BY JASON NISSÉ

LONRHO, the controversial conglomerate, is to face a challenge to the validity of the shareholders' meeting that allowed it to buy back a 21 per cent stake in the company from Anglo American, the South African mining group.

Global Strategic Management, a fund manager in Annapolis, Maryland, has contacted the Stock Exchange to say that it did not receive proxy forms before this month's extraordinary general meeting.

The fund manager, which owns 900,000 shares and has been a shareholder for some years, says it wanted to oppose the deal, which saw Lonrho pay more than £350 million for the stake and a South African coal mining business.

Adrian Day, president of Global, said the group did not receive a proxy form to vote its shares and contacted Lonrho and its registrars on the matter. Both said all proxy forms were sent out correctly.

Global then contacted the Stock Exchange, claiming the EGM was incorrectly run, and asking for the vote to be declared void. The Exchange said it would investigate.

Yesterday Lonrho claimed that Global was a shareholder through a nominee company that had been sent the proxy forms correctly.

The EGM has already been dogged with controversy because Anglo sold 40 million shares to its financial adviser, SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the night before the meeting. Warburg voted the shares in favour of the buyback, then sold them two working days later to make an £800,000 profit.

The vote to approve the buyback was narrowly approved by shareholders. Many expressed anger about the Anglo-Warburg deal.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5922.2	(-79.8)
Yield	2.76%	
FTSE All share	2777.16	(-30.52)
Nikkei	15703.80	(-179.97)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9084.54	(+7.97)*
S&P Composite	1110.70	(+2.53)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	103[16/32]*	(103[16/32])
Yield	5.88%*	(5.87%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	7[7/16]%	(7[7/16]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	109[2/32]	(109[1/16])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6847*	(1.6905)
London:		
$	1.6850	(1.6924)
DM	3.0456	(3.0591)
FFr	10.2070	(10.2540)
SFr	2.5249	(2.5436)
Yen	221.86	(223.03)
£ Index	107.6	(108.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8090*	(1.8045)
FFr	6.0645*	(6.0500)
SFr	1.5003*	(1.5033)
Yen	131.95*	(131.75)
$ Index	109.5	(109.8)

Tokyo close Yen 131.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$14.80	($14.95)

GOLD

London close	$307.25	($307.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Hinchliffe's estate deal faces threat

BY JASON NISSÉ

THE takeover of Knoydart Peninsula, owner of the 16,000-acre Knoydart estate in the west of Scotland, by Stephen Hinchliffe and Christopher Harrison, the controversial Sheffield businessmen, may be threatened by legal action from a former owner.

Philip Rhodes, a property developer who sold the estate to Titaghur, a Dundee jute company that then sold it to the pair, says that he has an arrestment on the property because he is owed £200,000 by Titaghur. "This sale is in breach of the arrestment," said Mr Rhodes. "My lawyers advise me that I can either sue for damages or apply to revoke the deal that has been done."

The Serious Fraud Office is studying the collapse of Facia, the retail group that Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Harrison ran.

CPS drops case against duo behind CWS bid

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE Crown Prosecution Service has decided not to take action against Andrew Regan and David Lyons, the pair behind last year's aborted £1.2 billion bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society, or against Allan Green, a former CWS executive who aided them.

The CPS took over the case, which was launched as a private prosecution by the Manchester-based CWS, last June. The CWS alleged that Mr Regan and Mr Lyons had accepted confidential company documents passed to them by Mr Green. A video of a clandestine meeting in a home counties car park was played in court during the bid battle.

In August, the CPS said it would discontinue the prosecution to allow police investigations to continue. The whole matter has now been dropped because independent counsel advised it that there was not enough evidence.

A Serious Fraud Office investigation into a contract between the CWS and a company previously controlled by Mr Regan is still continuing. The Securities and Futures Authority is also continuing its investigation into three directors of corporate finance at Hambros, the merchant bank which advised on the CWS bid.

Lanica Trust, Mr Regan and Mr Lyons' investment vehicle, issued a statement yesterday, saying: "The company is pleased, but not surprised, by today's announcement."

Fifield picks up £12.5m payoff on resignation

BY CHRIS AYRES

JIM FIFIELD resigned as president and chief executive of EMI Music yesterday taking with him nearly £12.5 million in compensation and pension contributions.

Although the payoff is less than the £30 million received by Charles Koppelman when he resigned as head of EMI's North American operations it is still expected to cause outrage among institutional investors. However, EMI is hoping that Mr Fifield's departure will lift the cloud that has hung over the company since February, when Mr Fifield was turned down for the job of group chief executive. Yesterday, its shares slid 17p to 465½p.



Fifield: caused outrage

In spite of growing internal frustration with his management, Sir Colin Southgate, who also recently appointed chairman of the Royal Opera House, will remain executive chairman.

Martin Bandier, chief executive of EMI Music Publishing and Ken Berry, chief executive of EMI Recorded Music, will both be given seats on the board. Simon Duffy, finance director, will become executive joint deputy chairman with Sir Peter Walters, who is non-executive.

Mr Fifield is entitled to release share options and awards that he has earned over recent years, although many of these are worthless, such as share options taken out at more than 740p.

United's Hollick clocks up £2.5m

BY JASON NISSÉ

LORD HOLLICK, the Labour peer, received £2.57 million in pay, share options and long-term incentive bonuses as chief executive of United News & Media last year.

Lord Hollick, who is a special adviser to Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, received a basic salary of £388,000, and this was boosted by a bonus of £264,000, gains on share options exercised during the year of £1.51 million and £397,000 of shares awarded under the senior executive equity participation (SEEP) scheme.

A company spokesman said that the options had to be exercised during the year or they would have expired and that the SEEP award could not be taken up for three years and depended on United achieving certain performance targets.

United's annual report, published yesterday, also discloses that the group paid David Arculus, the executive who recently resigned to lead the IPC Magazines buyout, £345,000 last year. Stephen Grabiner, the head of Express Newspapers, who is currently in a legal dispute with United over whether he can leave to join British Digital Broadcasting, received £365,000, including a bonus of £100,000.

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AWEEK IN THE CITY

It was a week for greeting old friends. The emotion-charged names of Westland and Astra flitted across the City landscape, as stock markets paused for breath. The Easter flooding left insurers running scared. But unseasonal snow and rain was as nothing next to the financial tide engulfing America's banks.

Last week's $166 billion (£98 billion) tie-up between Citicorp and Travelers Group was soon to lose its place in the sun. On Monday, BankAmerica and NationsBank unveiled a megadeal of their own — a $133 billion merger aimed at creating America's first national high street bank. The combined group, BankAmerica, will have assets of $570 billion, easily surpassing Chase Manhattan as the biggest US bank.

Just hours earlier, two Midwest banking powers, Banc One and First Chicago NBD, announced a $72 billion merger. Bid speculation continues to swirl around UK players including HSBC, owner of Midland Bank, and that old favourite, Standard Chartered.

It was also the week in which Michael Heseltine finally got to thumb his nose at his former Cabinet colleagues — even if 12 years too late. Westland, based in Yeovil, Somerset, said it was teaming up with Agusta, the Italian helicopter manufacturer. This was just the sort of European defence alliance championed by Heseltine all those years ago.

Westland's parent, GKN, is discussing the mechanics of the deal with Finmeccanica, the Italian state-owned industrial conglomerate which owns Agusta.

Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, said she was dropping disqualification proceedings against four former directors of Astra Holdings, the company at the centre of the arms-to-Iran affair. Gerald James, John Anderson, Christopher Gumbley and James Miller faced being barred from the boardroom for up to 15 years.

The Serious Fraud Office said it was investigating allegations of false accounting at Azlan, the struggling computer products group. The inquiry focuses on the accounts for the year to end April 1997, in which profits appeared to have been overstated by nearly £30 million. Former executives and employees have some explaining to do.

Nick Reilly, the chairman of Vauxhall Motors, caused a stir, when he said he would forgo his £160,000 salary for a year if unions agreed a pay and productivity deal. Giving up his salary altogether is Bob Crandall, union-busting boss of American Airlines, who retires next month with the alliance with British Airways still glued to the runway. Crandall, 62, has been campaigning hard for the alliance with Bob Ayling, his BA counterpart.

The National Lottery produced another ripping yarn — this time courtesy of the Post Office, which was said to be plotting to snatch the lottery licence in a joint bid with Littlewoods. The licence comes up for renewal in 2001. The Post Office denied holding talks with Littlewoods.

The Association of British Insurers put the cost of the weekend flooding at about £500 million. While nothing like the £1.5 billion toll of the 1987 storms, it could be just the excuse for another rise in insurance premiums. Someone has to pay.

JON ASHWORTH

PowerGen may face action on closures

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

POWERGEN, the third biggest generator, could face action over a possible licence breach as it and National Power yesterday came under fire for power station closures.

Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, is worried that the two main coal-burning generators are trying to keep their market dominance by not selling power stations they no longer want. Instead they are closing units within power stations and then arguing that it is difficult to sell or lease a unit to a competitor.

Professor Littlechild told PowerGen that a four-day "quickie" closure of part of a coal-fired power station seemed to "constitute a breach of its licence" because it had not provided six months' warning.

He has demanded assurances from both generators that they are open to serious commercial offers to run old coal station units. Both CoalPro, the UK organisation for coal producers, and RJB Mining have expressed interests in lease operations for the station units. But they are thought to have believed the price too high and conditions too restrictive. The generators have said that they have not had serious offers. One insider said there had been a "surprising lack of interest".

Professor Littlechild has ordered the generators to keep maintaining two further units that were closed last month in case they could be sold.

Professor Littlechild's comments followed a report by an independent assessor into the closure, announced last year, of four units within three coal stations. The assessor said: "The closure of some but not all units at a station could reflect a reluctance by incumbent generators to relinquish claims to existing power station sites in order to retain their market position."



Fast movers: Daniel Hodson said Liffe's full-scale screen trading might be extended "significantly earlier" than planned

Liffe seeks chairman as reform gathers pace

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) is coming under strong pressure to bring in new screen-based trading systems faster after its 215 members voted overwhelmingly for the first stage of a rolling reform programme and triggered a rapid search for a new chairman.

Daniel Hodson, Liffe's chief executive, said that full-scale screen trading might be extended "significantly earlier" than originally planned. Members might also want a stop-gap measure, extending the use of APT, a screen-trading system presently used for out-of-hours trade.

Under a schedule agreed last month, an advanced system being developed by the exchange would be ready to handle any of its business by the last quarter of 1999. Some Liffe traders fear that continental exchanges could gain a lead in new euro contracts by trading on-screen from the start of the euro in January. Frankfurt has already seized the business in German bond futures.

Aside from hoping that this Connect 99 system can be speeded up, the board is looking at other options. These include adapting one of two advanced systems already in use on the Stockholm and Paris derivatives exhanges.

Hitherto, Liffe has argued that it would take just as long to adapt an off-the-shelf system to its existing systems for registering, processing and clearing trades. The open-architectured Connect system had been under development for more than a year for use in trading individual share options this November.

When Liffe opted for general screen-trading, it decided to build on the Connect project. The APT system cannot be accessed more than about 25 miles from its base.

On a 75 per cent turnout, all but two members voted to have an executive chairman paid fully by the exchange. This would raise costs at a time when Liffe is trying to economise. Previously, chairmen have come from trading firms and acted on a largely honorary basis. Jack Wigglesworth is due to retire from the chair in mid-June after a three-year stint. The next chairman will have a three-year contract and is likely to be paid at least £250,000 a year. Liffe, which has spent money on headhunters, has only nine weeks to fill the post.

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Colquhoun payoff revealed

BY ROBERT BRUCE

ANDREW COLQUHOUN, whose contract as chief executive of Britain's biggest accounting body was terminated last October, has received a payoff of £167,000 as well as a considerably enhanced pension provision.

The annual report and accounts of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales are expected to reveal that, when added to his salary of £128,804, Mr Colquhoun last year received £295,804. The report will be sent to members in two week's time.

It has also been agreed that Mr Colquhoun's pension entitlement, which would have brought him £30,887 per annum at age 62, will be available earlier and that the sliding scale that would have lowered the payout in the case of early retirement will be reduced in his case. The institute's pension scheme normally reduces pension entitlement by 3 per cent a year on early retirement, which can be taken at age 52 onwards. Mr Colquhoun is 48.

The maximum enhancement would be £194,600.

Nissan's profits plunge by 80%

BY GEORGE SIVELL

NISSAN MOTOR CO suffered an 80 per cent plunge in profits last year as a result of big losses on its securities holdings and sluggish car sales.

The share losses arose from its membership of the Fuyo corporate group, which includes ailing financial institutions such as Fuji Bank and Yasuda Trust & Banking, whose share prices tumbled over the past year. Members of Japan's corporate groups often maintain sizeable holdings of each other's shares in order to help to cement ties within the group.

Yesterday the Japanese group revealed a fall to Y16 billion (£72 million) in net profits in the year to March 31. The company had estimated a profit of Y55 billion. In the year to March 31 1997 Nissan enjoyed a net profit of Y51.4 billion, its first venture into the black for five years thanks, in part, to the weakness of the yen against the dollar. The Nissan final dividend will be held at Y7, however, to add to the Y3 interim already paid.

Nissan blamed the weak performance of the Tokyo stock market for appraisal losses of Y50.4 billion on its stock holdings. The car group also suffered from a decline in the Japanese vehicle market. In Europe Nissan says rationalisation efforts were bearing fruit but that in America it suffered from a decrease in sales.

Soon after Nissan's announcement, Moody's Investors Service, the ratings agency, said it had put Nissan and its affiliates under negative review. In addition, Moody's will evaluate Nissan's domestic market position and its competitive position in North America.

Nissan's financial performance in North America, which has been an important contributor to earnings, will be reviewed, including the impact of the company's residual and off-lease exposure.

Nissan said that although it hoped new models scheduled for launch over the next year or so would help improve its performance, the immediate prospects remained less than rosy. The full-year results will be announced on May 27.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BT adds 800 staff to Dundee call centre

BT CONNECTIONS in Business (CiB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of BT, is to create 800 new jobs in Dundee, including 50 jobs under the Government's New Deal initiative. The company's new £6 million call centre is to expand to conduct business from another 400 call-handling positions.

BT CiB employs 1,000 people in the city, including 220 staff at the centre positioned in the technology park. The staff handle a share-dealing and information service for Barclays Stockbrokers and the National Rail Enquiry Service. Doug Riley, a BT Scottish director, said Dundee had been chosen for expansion because of its existing high-quality workforce: "We have a highly-trained and motivated team and have developed a strong partnership with national and local agencies." Martin Togneri, director of Locate in Scotland, the country's inward investment agency, said: "It is excellent news and comes so quickly after BT's original decision to set up a call centre in the city." Brian Wilson, Scottish Office industry minister, said: "This confirms our international reputation as a leading call-centre location within Europe."

Bauman to get £225,000

BOB BAUMAN, the deputy chairman of BTR who takes over as chairman of the rapidly changing engineering company at the annual meeting in May, will be paid a salary of £225,000, according to the annual accounts. He intends to take around £100,000 of his salary in cash with the balance in shares awarded under the current executive share option scheme, which is linked to the company's financial performance. Mr Bauman, 68, a former chief executive of SmithKline Beecham who will step down as chairman of British Aerospace later this month, will serve as chairman until the annual meeting in the year 2001. He succeeds Elwyn Eilledge.

US trade deficit swells

THE American trade deficit with the rest of the world swelled by 4.2 per cent in February to $12.1 billion (£7.2 billion), approaching the record levels of the late 1980s, as the goods gap with Japan soared, the Commerce Department said. The February total, up from January's downwardly revised gap of $11.6 billion, exceeded the expectations of US economists and led to speculation that the drag from the trade sector would help to restrain the strong momentum in the overall US economy. One economist said: "It looks like [trade] is going to cut growth by at least a percentage point, if not more, in the first quarter."

American output up

US INDUSTRIAL output edged up modestly in March as cooler weather boosted the output of utilities, the Federal Reserve said, but added that production by manufacturing industries weakened sharply. The weakening in manufacturing included durables, such as cars, and non-durables, such as food and clothing. While total industrial output increased 0.2 per cent in March, the Fed revised both its January and February estimates to show output drops of 0.2 per cent in each month. As a result, first-quarter industrial output posted its weakest performance in seven years, since it contracted in the first quarter of 1991 in the last recession.

Rap warns of loss

RAP GROUP, the distributors, estimated that it will show a 1997 pre-tax loss up to £800,000 because of write-offs and provisions. In the previous year, to December 1996, Rap made £690,000. On March 24, it warned the market of problems at its Burnley site. It said yesterday a preliminary review of the accounting systems and of the level of stock provisions had been concluded by independent-reporting accountants. "As a result of the review, the board considers that there is likely to be a need for a significant level of stock write-offs and provisions." The shares remained unchanged at 31½p.

Anglo-Welsh improves

SHARES in Anglo-Welsh, the AIM-listed canal boat operator, rose from 72½p to 80p yesterday after the group revealed a rise in pre-tax profits from £92,340 to £366,153 in the year to December 31, exceeding its prospectus forecast. Earnings per share reached 12.9p out of which a total dividend of 3p a share will be paid after payment of a 2p final. David Court, chairman, said: "We are working closely with British Waterways to enhance the potential of Britain's inland waterway network and to expand its water-related facilities. We have identified a number of waterside opportunities that are in various stages of development."

Bodycote in double deal

BODYCOTE INTERNATIONAL, the engineering group, yesterday revealed two deals in Canada. Bodycote is buying Technitrol-Eco Laboratories in Montreal for £2.06 million. Technitrol provides materials analysis, physical testing and forensic chemistry services testing to industry. The group made £340,000 before tax in the year to December 31 on sales of £3.6 million and net assets of £1.17 million. Bodycote is also acquiring, for a nominal sum, Analex, a pharmaceuticals analysis subsidiary of Labopharm. It is intended to combine Analex and Technitrol. Bodycote's shares remained unchanged at £10.49.

Haden disposes of Mills

HADEN MacLELLAN, the engineering contractor, has sold Mills Manufacturing Technology Holdings and subsidiaries to a new company for £6.7 million cash, including the repayment of intra-group loans. The Mills management has taken an equity stake in the new company, financed primarily by Close Bros, the merchant bank. Mills had net assets of £4.3 million at the sale. Mills, a distributor of high-tech machine tools, in 1997 reported pre-tax profit of £1.1 million. Haden MacLellan said the proceeds of the disposal will be used for the further development of its core businesses and to reduce debt. Haden shares rose ½p to 139½p.

UniChem plans UK expansion

BY FRASER NELSON

ALLIANCE UNICHEM, the newly merged European drugs chain chaired by Kenneth Clarke MP, said yesterday it intends to acquire between 50 and 100 UK chemist shops this year.

The company, formed in November by the merger between UniChem and Alliance Sante of Italy, intends to use its £136 million cash pile for bolt-on acquisitions.

Jeff Harris, chief executive, said: "We have a steady stream of pharmacies offering themselves to us for sale."

Mr Harris also derided Boots's £18 million acquisition of Connors, the Irish chemist chain, saying that its rival had paid far too much.

His comments came as the company revealed pre-tax profits of £59.2 million (£53.5 million) over 1997, leaving earnings of 22.3p (20.2p) a share. It bought 66 pharmacies over the year, most of which became Moss Chemists.

The results do not take into account any profit by Alliance Santé, which was integrated on New Year's Eve. It made a profit of £23.4 million (£13 million) after tax for the same period.

Tempus, page 30

Blackstone to sell 13 US hotels

BY DOMINIC WALSH

BLACKSTONE GROUP, the new American owner of the Savoy Group, is to sell its 13 US hotels to Host Marriott for $1.78 billion (£1 billion) in order to focus its resources on developing Savoy into an international chain.

The investment group, which together with Colony Capital, another US firm, paid £520 million for Savoy, is selling its other hotel assets in return for a 19 per cent stake in Host Marriott, owner of about 100 hotels operated by Marriott International. The 13 properties are managed by luxury operators such as Ritz-Carlton and Four Seasons.

John Kukral, senior managing director of Blackstone, admitted that some of Granada's remaining Forte Exclusive hotels, including the Ritz in Madrid and the Hotel de la Trémoille in Paris, worth a combined £57 million, were "the type of hotels we're interested in", although he added: "We have not started any discussions yet."

Mr Kukral, who hopes to tie up at least one acquisition this year, said Blackstone's long-term target was to add five hotels in the US, seven or eight in Europe and an unspecified number in the Far East.

Counterpart workers fight to save factory

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

WORKERS at a Yorkshire knitwear factory threatened with closure took their jobs battle to the heart of the London fashion world yesterday.

A delegation from the Counterpart factory, in Maltby, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire, travelled to London's Savile Row to launch a protest outside the headquarters of Coates Viyella, its parent company.

The South Yorkshire factory is expected to close in June, with the loss of 400 jobs, unless a buyer can be found for the business. The plant was earmarked for closure after a decision by Coats Viyella to pull out of some high street retail markets and concentrate its resources on manufacturing its knitwear for Marks & Spencer alone.

Les Skinner, a spokesman for the delegation, said: "We want the company to know how strongly we feel about what is happening." A spokesman for Counterpart said: "Some of our plants are being sold on as going concerns, but so far attempts to find a buyer for Maltby have failed."

Shares in Coats Viyella rose 1p to 94p yesterday.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.67	2.50
Austria Sch	22.37	20.71
Belgium Fr	65.91	60.95
Canada $	2.540	2.352
Cyprus Cypf	0.931	0.860
Denmark Kr	12.17	11.28
Finland Mkk	9.77	9.02
France Fr	10.66	9.88
Germany Dm	3.20	2.96
Greece Dr	582	513
Hong Kong $	13.88	12.68
Iceland	133	113
Ireland Pt	1.28	1.70
Israel Shk	8.65	8.00
Italy Lira	3180	2943
Japan Yen	236.44	218.91
Malta	0.698	0.637
Netherlds Gld	3.612	3.317
New Zealand $	3.15	2.91
Norway Kr	13.23	12.29
Portugal Esc	323.67	301.64
S Africa Rd	9.19	8.23
Spain Pta	269.56	250.77
Sweden Kr	13.83	12.73
Switzerland Fr	2.67	2.45
Turkey Lira	419873	389965
USA $	1.792	1.648

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

FREE TENNIS FOR EVERY READER

Today *The Times* offers every reader the chance to enjoy a FREE tennis session at one of more than 70 independent clubs across the country. The offer, which entitles you and a partner to FREE use of a tennis court for up to an hour, could save you as much as £15 and is valid until Saturday May 30, 1998. A full list of participating clubs, many normally open only to members, appeared on Monday. You can choose from both grass and clay courts.

HOW TO APPLY

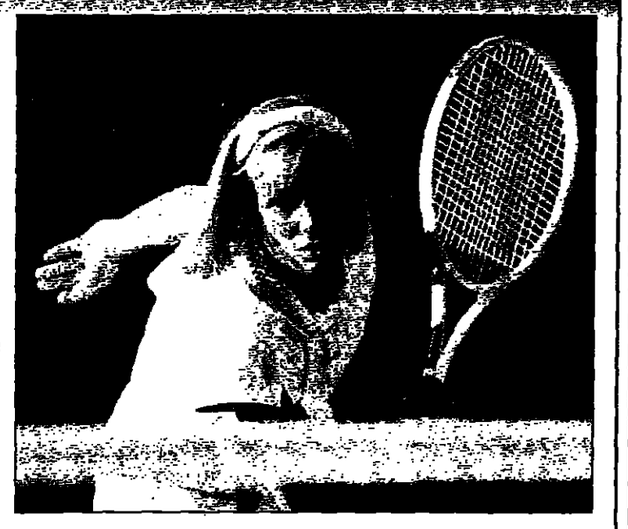
Book your session in advance with your chosen club and attach three differently numbered tokens published in *The Times* this week, plus the token in tomorrow's Style section of *The Sunday Times*, to the voucher, below. Present the voucher and tokens at the club on the day of your visit.

THE TIMES FREE TENNIS VOUCHER

To qualify for your free tennis session, valid for up to one hour, present this voucher, with three tokens from *The Times* and one token from *The Sunday Times* attached.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1 Your free visit must be booked in advance by telephone directly with one of the participating clubs quoting *The Times* offer. 2 Each voucher is only valid for two people making one free visit. 3 No photocopies of tokens or vouchers will be accepted. 4 The offer is valid until Saturday May 30, 1998, and is subject to availability. 5 The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and entitles you to one visit to the club only. 6 Check at the time of booking exactly what is included in the offer as some sessions may vary in duration. Doubles may be available at the club's discretion.

THE TIMES FREE TENNIS TOKEN 6



SOUTH EAST

BECKENHAM Beckenham Tennis & Cricket Club 0181-650 0266. BERKHAMSTED Berkhamsted LTC & Squash Racquets Club 01442 863393. BEXHILL-ON-SEA Cooden Beach Sports Club 01424 844810. BOGNOR REGIS Bognor LTC 01243 863695. BROMLEY Bromley LTC 0181-460 0936. CHICHESTER Chichester Lawn Tennis & Squash Club 01243 787269. CRAWLEY Copthorne The Club 01342 715022. CROYDON Esporta Health & Racquets Club 0181 681 1331. GRAVESEND Gravesham LTC 01474 535411. HEMEL HEMPSTEAD National & International Tennis Academy 01442 230234. HORSHAM Comptons TC 01403 263734. LEWES The Southdown Club 01273 480630. LONDON SE3 Blackheath TC 0171-240 7206. LONDON SW13 Rocks Lane TC 0181-876 8330. LONDON W2 Carlton Tennis & Health Club 0171-286 1985. LONDON W3 Acton LTC 0181-995 6215. LONDON W10 Westway TC 0181-969 0992. MAIDSTONE Axis Health & Fitness Club 01622 750007. NEWBURY Greenacre Leisure 01635 41707. READING Hanover International Hotel & Club 0118-959 1885. SLOUGH Slough TC 01753 875587. ST ALBANS St Albans LTC 01727 839085. TUNBRIDGE WELLS Tunbridge Wells LTC 01892 525625. WELWYN GARDEN CITY Puma TC 01707 331056. WEYBRIDGE St George's Hill LTC 01932 843541. WORTHING The West Worthing Club 01903 247270.

SOUTH WEST

BASINGSTOKE Mannydown TC 01256 780212. BATH Bath TC 0976 354854. BODMIN Dragon Leisure Centre 01208 75715. LYMINGTON Lymington TC 01590 676236. RINGWOOD St Leonards & St Ives TC 01202 874150. SALISBURY Salisbury TC 01722 415089. WESTON-SUPER-MARE Weston TC 01934 513447.

WALES

CARDIFF Cardiff LTC 01222 231216. NEWPORT Newport TC 01633 671800. RUTHIN Ruthin TC 01824 780254.

LTC = Lawn Tennis Club
TC = Tennis Club/Centre

CHANGING TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

MERGER MANIA

"The rise of Hugh McColl, of NationsBank, is the stuff of legend. He joined as a management trainee in 1959, and became chief executive in 1983. In the next 15 years he snapped up about 100 banks..."

Business Focus, The Sunday Times tomorrow

هكذا من الأصل

Malaysians on board, frills and all

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Malayan United Industries may be keen to take cash out of their homeland but if opting to put more than £40 million of it into Laura Ashley shares is their idea of a safe haven, they should have stayed in Kuala Lumpur.

That Sir Bernard Ashley has agreed to a deal that prices the shares at 28p and dilutes his stake to 21 per cent is a clear indication of just how desperate is the company's state. Not long ago the irrascible Sir Bernard was insisting that his shares were worth £2 apiece and he would not sell for less.

But the figures revealed by the company yesterday, underlined by the glum tone of the comments from the new management, show that if the Malaysians had not come to the rescue, Sir Bernard's shares would soon have been worthless.

Recent chapters in this saga of mismanagement have hardly added kudos to the career of John Thornton, the top Goldman Sachs partner who is its chairman. Quite why the glitzy Thornton should have tarnished his CV with this involvement remains something of a mystery. He had in the past advised Sir Bernard on his financial affairs but that might have been expected to give him sufficient insight to steer clear of the company. Instead, he joined the board in 1995 and took over as chairman two years ago.

It was Thornton who advocated Ann Iverson as the salvation of the sinking company, an appointment that exacerbated Laura Ashley's difficulties with mind-boggling speed. Having a top banker at the helm might at least be useful when capital is required but it seems that it was the Malyasians who approached Thornton rather than the other way round.

Never mind, he probably deserves the credit for persuading MUI that Laura Ashley is a global brand waiting to be exploited. There are not many who would subscribe to this view but the Malaysians appear to have swallowed it, despite sales figures which show that appetites for Laura Ashley's designs are continuing to fade.

David Hoare and his team may be able to instil sensible management disciplines into the group but after a succession of image changes for the merchandise, previously loyal devotees of pie crust frills and flowery prints have taken their custom elsewhere.

And even Mr Hoare may find his style cramped by the arrival on his board of a couple of Malaysian executive directors. As Sir Bernard used to make all too clear, those who hold the shares can try to call the tune and certainly succeed in making a fearful nuisance of themselves. It is the outside shareholders who have paid the price of his intermittent meddling and the succession of management changes that have dogged the company.

And there is still little reason for celebration. Whatever the Malaysians believe, Laura Ashley shares look as unexciting as its designs.

Flying a kite over benchmarking

A government seal of approval on financial products is an idea worthy of its own corner in the Millennium Dome. It has all the superficial appeal and lack of substance and serious thought which seems to be characterising the Greenwich project. Unfortunately, like the Dome, it also seems to be going ahead, despite the views of those who will have to live with it.

The suggestion of a simple way of "kitemarking" products was first mooted when the Isa made its debut as the Big Idea for encouraging savings. But no matter how keen the Government may be to avoid a repeat of the pensions mis-selling débâcle, financial products cannot be packaged like baked beans.

Benchmarking for Isas is likely to be based on costs, and there is clearly scope for some providers to cut back on the charges which they currently levy, occasionally rather craftily, upon customers. It is simplistic, however, to indicate that the best products are those with the lowest charges. In financial products, as in a depressingly high number of areas, it is often the case that you get what you pay for and quality can come at a price.

The Government's ideas on Isa, although much improved on the original proposals, remain disturbing to many industry players. The Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, was persuaded to drop the £50,000 limit on tax-free savings and quietly abandoned the laughable lottery component in the package, but Isa still looks to be a very complicated arrangement to manage.

Many providers are anxious that they will not be able to produce low cost products, given the complicated structures that will have to be put in place. If fears that benchmarking might rule out the majority of product providers prove justified, it will not be in the interests of customers.

The Government will need to consult carefully with the industry if it is to come up with a scheme that is workable. In the meantime, savers are rushing to make the most of current tax free savings schemes with a degree of enthusiasm which looks potentially dangerous. How many buyers of index-tracking Peps read, and digest, the small print about shares going down as well as up? It may be unfair to talk of another mis-selling scandal, but there is a strong risk of another mis-buying débâcle as relatively naive investors pile into a stock market that they believe to travel in one direction only.

Why pay Fifield a fortune to walk?

If Jim Fifield was so valuable to EMI, why is the company shelling out more than £12 million to be rid of him? A simple question, but one which shareholders may care to pose to Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman.

Yesterday Sir Colin was praising the contribution that Fifield made to the group, pointing out that in the decade since he joined EMI Music, the company's profits had increased tenfold. So why pay him a fortune to walk?

The fact that he is not to be replaced and that his costly New York base is being disbanded might indicate a different story behind Sir Colin's warm words. But if EMI believes that Martin Bandier and Ken Berry are perfectly capable of running the music publishing and recording businesses themselves, without aid from an extra executive tier, why has the company been so generously bankrolling Fifield?

In recent months, when EMI's dismal share price performance needed a strong management response, the company has seemed mired in boardroom muddle. Sir Colin, who could not resist taking on the role of chairman of The Royal Opera House, was said to be making way for the demands of this new job by going non-executive at EMI. Then he changed his mind. Did he consult his board or merely keep them informed as plans changed? It seems likely that his deputy chairman, and head of EMI's nominations committee may anyhow have been a trifle pre-occupied: Sir Peter Walters doubles up as chairman of SmithKline Beecham.

Liffe chances

UNLESS members of Liffe have opted for a highly paid full-time chairman purely to swell overheads, whoever takes office nine weeks hence seems destined to be its executive boss. Unless the Cannon Street mafia hire some posh proconsul, the choice looks a vote of confidence in Daniel Hodson, chief executive. If they reckon he has done well, he will get the top post, like his counterpart at the New York stock exchange. If not, he may have no job at all.

Disclosure dispute clouds Decaux's bid for More

BY CHRIS AYRES

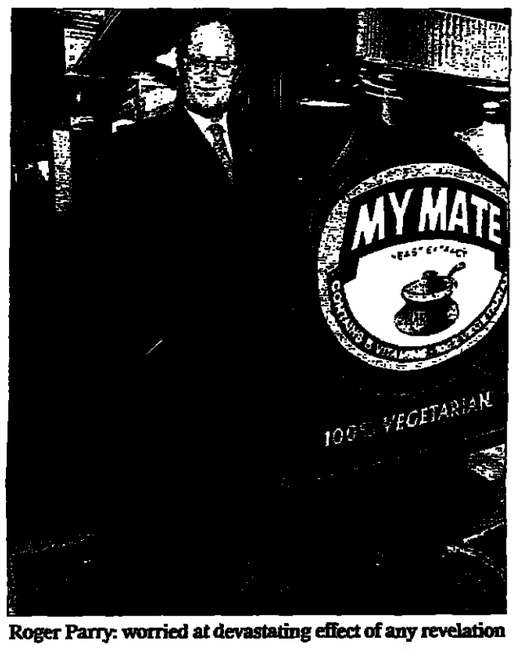
A BITTER dispute over the disclosure of sensitive commercial information has broken out between Clear Channel of the US and Decaux of France, the companies locked in a bidding war for More Group, the outdoor advertising company.

Sources close to More Group, which puts up bus shelters and superloos for local authorities then sells advertising on them, claim that Clear Channel has threatened to reconsider its £466 million offer for the company if More hands details of its tender offers to Decaux.

Clear Channel yesterday denied the claim, saying it remained commited to the bid. However, it added it would be "displeased" if some documents were disclosed.

Under Takeover Panel rules, any commerical information given to one bidder must be given to the other. However, it is understood that Lazard Brothers, Decaux's financial advisers, are demanding More Group hand over details of any current tenders which have been made to any organisation, town, city or transport authority in the UK or abroad.

This information — giving in-depth financial details of More Group's tender offers plus bus shelter and public toilet designs and locations — has not apparently been given to Clear Channel. Such a disclosure would be devastating to More Group if Decaux's bid ultimately failed, and would blow apart the tendering process between the two companies to provide street furniture in cities such as New York and Los Angeles.



Roger Parry: worried at devastating effect of any revelation

The New York contract alone — where More Group and Decaux are the only two serious contenders — is worth $1.5 billion (£900 million) over 20 years. The two companies will also soon be battling against each other to secure contracts in UK cities such as London and Glasgow.

The Office of Fair Trading is likely to reach a decision on whether or not to let the £475 million Decaux offer go ahead by the end of the month. Local authorities had until yesterday to give evidence to the OFT, and it is understood that many are concerned that Decaux would hold a monopoly on street furniture if it bought More Group.

If the OFT blocks the deal, a lengthy investigation will follow, with Clear Channel likely to raise its offer or drop out altogether.

Roger Parry, chief executive of More Group, said: "It is unusual to have an industry where there are only two competitors. It is also rare for them to be locked in such intense rivalry."

Mr Parry is thought to be deeply concerned about the disclosure of information to Decaux, and one souce close to the group said: "How can you create an opportunity where More tells the other side the details of its bids?"

Decaux yesterday said that the disclosure of information was a "non-issue". A spokesman said: "We have applied for information under the rules of the takeover code, and More Group has co-operated."

Quebecor admits to bid defeat

QUEBECOR, the Canadian printing company that mounted a hostile bid for Watmoughs four months ago, has finally admitted defeat and has withdrawn its offer (Fraser Nelson writes).

Charles Gavell, president, said the company had decided to stay away from Britain — representing a U-turn from its earlier threat that it may drive Watmoughs out of business by new investment if its bid should fail.

He said: "We intend to expand our support to UK customers wherever that can be successfully achieved from Europe."

Watmoughs agreed to a £250 million merger with the British Printing Corporation organised by InvestCorp, which emerged as a white knight in February.

Diageo expected to sell Irish stake

BY DOMINIC WALSH

DIAGEO is expected to sell its 49.6 per cent stake in Cantrell & Cochrane (C&C), the Irish drinks distributor. Allied Domecq, which owns the rest of the company, has first refusal and is ready to pay more than £300 million for Diageo's stake.

Diageo confirmed yesterday that a sale of some or all of its C&C holding was possible as a means of satisfying EU competition authorities. As a condition of approving the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan, the EU insisted that it must reduce its dominant distribution position in the Republic of Ireland.

Guinness Ireland has asked KPMG to value the C&C business. Analysts reckon it is worth between £600 million and £650 million, and sources close to Allied believe it would be keen to do a deal at that level. If not, C&C would probably be put on the open market.

However, a spokesman for Diageo said reducing its C&C stake was just one way it could meet EU requirements. It also owns a third of another Irish distributor, Edward Dillon.

But observers believe a sale of its C&C stake remains the most likely option. C&C distributes soft drink brands such as Pepsi and Schweppes, manufactures Britvic under licence and owns Ballygowan mineral water. It also owns Tullamore Dew Irish whiskey and has distribution rights for Allied brands such Teacher's and Tia Maria. It made a 1997 pre-tax profit of £50 million.

In line with Irish competition rules, selling out of C&C would allow Diageo to buy the 69 per cent of United Beverage Holdings, a soft drinks distributor, it does not already own.

Aviva and Garnet to merge

AVIVA PETROLEUM, the Dallas oil and gas exploration company quoted in London, has agreed to merge with Garnet Resources, another oil explorer (Carl Mortished writes).

The companies share interests in the same Colombian oil properties that together will total 3.3 million barrels. Aviva said the arrangements would include the refinancing of Garnet's debt and the cancelling of $15 million (£8.9 million) in Garnet debentures. ING Baring is to provide a $15 million credit facility to enable Aviva to refinance the debt and commence drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

Aviva's shares were unchanged at 13½p yesterday. The deal is due for completion before the end of July.

Hambros invites break-up bids

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE final demise of Hambros came a step closer yesterday as the group confirmed the demerger of Hambro Countrywide and announced plans to dispose of its 52 per cent stake in Hambro Insurance Services.

It also revealed that it had been talking to a number of interested parties about disposing of its remaining assets — a 44 per cent stake in Guinness Flight Hambro, a small Canadian fund management group, an investment subsidiary and cash of £230 million from the disposal of the bank.

Sir Chips Keswick, the Hambros chairman, said: "The distribution of Hambros' controlling shareholding in Hambro Countrywide is a major step in the process of change at Hambros. The board of is actively progressing discussions with certain interested parties who may be prepared to make a public offer for Hambros following the distribution of our Hambro Countrywide shares."

Shares in Hambro Countrywide, an estate agency and life insurance business, surprised analysts by falling on news of the demerger, which had been heavily trailed. Some believe that Hambro Countrywide shares are undervalued compared with other life insurance and estate agency groups.

Hambros Insurance Services has appointed DLJ Phoenix, the mergers and acquisitions specialist, to come up with a strategy. It may be sold entirely or could follow Hambro Countrywide down the demerger route.

A spokesman said: "The brand name will continue in private banking, but the company as we know it will cease to exist."

Tempus, page 31

Tilly's new tune on Gabriel's tax

BY CHRIS AYRES

BAKER TILLY, the firm of accountants being sued for its handling of Peter Gabriel's tax affairs, yesterday said that it would work with the pop star to resolve the dispute if he had suffered financially as a result of an error.

The company's statement was an apparent U-turn on its position last week, when it said that it would "vigorously defend" any writ it received.

Mr Gabriel, who is worth an estimated £10 million, has issued a writ demanding damages for breach of contract for the way Baker Tilly dealt with his and his company's tax affairs between 1992 and 1993. He is also suing for breach of duty of care over his tax affairs. The damages could run to several hundred thousand pounds.

Baker Tilly's announcement followed a statement by Mr Gabriel saying that the firm had already admitted three years ago that it was responsible for errors in his tax returns.

Mr Gabriel added that there was no allegation of fraud, and that a writ had been issued, but not served, against the accountancy firm.

A spokeswoman for Baker Tilly said: "If it is shown that Mr Gabriel has suffered financially as a result of an error made in preparing his tax returns for the financial year of 1992 to 1993 then Baker Tilly will work with him to resolve the matter.

"Baker Tilly is pleased that Mr Gabriel has confirmed that there is no question of fraud in this matter."

Baker Tilly is based in West London and made sales last year of about £40 million.

P&O's boat comes in with new ships

BY CARL MORTISHED


Sterling: growth plan

P&O is making more money per passenger as its new cruise ships drive its costs down, the company said yesterday.

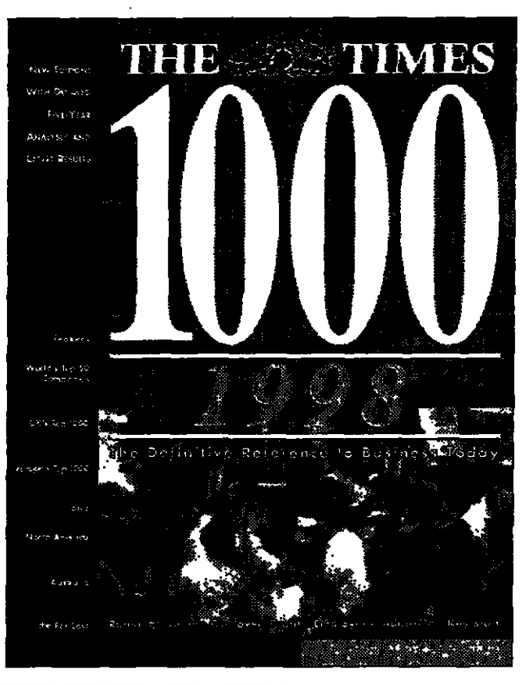
The company also said that the massacre at Luxor, Egypt, last November led to a small dip in load factor for its cruise operations in the first quarter of this year.

The company said that yields were up in the three months to March 31, and a spokesman insisted that a 2 per cent decline in load factor, to 98 per cent, for Princess Cruises was a blip that had been caused by weaker carryings in the Middle East and Africa. "At the back end of last year, we had Luxor and, for Americans, the Iraqi situation blew up," the spokesman said.

Capacity increased by 8 per cent to just over one million passenger beds in the first quarter, but capacity declined in P&O Cruises as the Canberra was taken out of service. P&O is poised for a sharp increase in capacity when the Grand Princess begins service in May, with all of its 2,600 berths booked through to October.

With half a dozen new ships due to be delivered, P&O's cruise operations will see capacity increase by 12 per cent a year over the next five years. The company, of which Lord Sterling of Plaistow is chairman, reckons that such growth is justified as the post-war baby-boom generation nears middle age. According to P&O, yields should rise too because the new vessels are 50 per cent cheaper to operate than the 30-year-old ships leaving service.

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Tinseltown trio face fresh trials in their quest for a happy ending

DreamWorks has potential but seems to be stuck in a reverie, says **Oliver August**



Amistad, starring Djimon Hounson as Cinque, has not had the success hoped for by the DreamWorks team

A film about a tiny mouse called Jenny is currently swelling the coffers of cinema companies across Britain. In *Mousehunt*, Jenny is defending her homestead against the new owners of her residence. The Smuntz brothers, played by Nathan Lane and Lee Evans, are repeatedly outfoxed by the teensy, weensy mouse.

The film is one of the first celluloid efforts by DreamWorks, the entertainment company founded by three of Hollywood's wunderkinder — David Geffen, Steven Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg. Geffen fostered music greats such as Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. Spielberg created *E.T.* and Katzenberg was the brain behind Walt Disney's *The Lion King*. Theirs is a David and Goliath story similar to Jenny's. Three years ago they founded DreamWorks to compete with the big Hollywood studios such as Disney. They invested $2.7 billion of private capital plus their stellar reputations to put themselves in the driving seats.

Their backers include Seagrams, the Canadian drinks group, and Microsoft, the software powerhouse. Each invested $1 billion. The rationale that lured these two outsiders to Hollywood is simple. Take the most popular film director and the hippest music marketer, add the man who created some of Disney's greatest successes, and you have a Disney Mark II. If it works, the rewards would be astronomical. Disney is worth $75 billion after lifting share prices 50 per cent last year. And it was, of course, another mouse that made Disney great.

But, so far, DreamWorks has lacked Jenny's or Mickey's finesse. Its performance has been far from dream-like. After three years, the company has yet to have a big hit. Its biggest project to date is *Amistad*, a film about a mutiny on a slave ship during the last century. Anthony Hopkins and Morgan Freeman stand on opposite sides of the racial divide. Some derided the film as "Bounty with Blacks". Directed by Spielberg, the film cost $80 million. It was intended to follow in the tracks of Spielberg's other big epic, *Schindler's List*. But while *Schindler's List* was celebrated by critics and audiences, Amistad has yet to make a profit. And on Oscar night last month, Spielberg's ship sank unceremoniously on its collision course with Titanic.

The failure of *Amistad* was an early reminder that Hollywood's marketing game cannot be won with back-of-an-envelope strategies. The film had opened in just a few selected cinemas in America, from where it was supposed to ignite a wider following. The concept worked for *Schindler's List*. Spielberg's latest effort needed the traditional hyping that usually accompanies Hollywood's clichéd fare.

But DreamWorks is not just a feature film studio. It also has music and television divisions. These, too, have not yet fulfilled expectations. Four of its five television series have been dropped. The only one still running is *Spin City*, in which Michael J. Fox plays a spin doctor working for the mayor of New York. The series has won a following in Britain.

The music division, Geffen's domain, has done even worse than the television productions. He hired Mo Ostin and Lenny Waronker, top executives at Warner Bros, but the boardroom walls are not decorated with gold and platinum records. More *Titanic* soundtracks were sold in one week than DreamWorks albums in three years. George Michael, the Wham star and DreamWorks's biggest name, has made headlines recently. But not for his album *Older*, for which the outed singer was apparently paid $20 million.

The DreamWorks strategy can best be described as "finger in every pie". On top of their long-established interests in film and music, the Hollywood trio has branched out into interactive entertainment. They are hoping to benefit from the transfer of movie stars from the big screens to computer game screens. Only the publishing of books based on its films has been left to an outsider — Penguin, owned by Pearson.

The progress of DreamWorks has also been hampered by legal problems. The launch of *Amistad* was overshadowed by a plagiarism suit. A writer called Barbara Chase-Riboud claimed that the *Amistad* script had been based on her novel *Echo Of Lions*. Ms Chase-Riboud initially demanded $10 million, but was forced to apologise after DreamWorks showed that she had plagiarised from an earlier work.

A second legal row erupted when Katzenberg sued Disney over his dismissal, asking for a $250 million severance package. Disney retaliated by calling Geffen and Spielberg as witnesses and promising to ask embarrassing questions about their co-operation. Katzenberg buckled under pressure from his two partners and settled with Disney. Hollywood insiders have since asked how strong the bonds between the three really are.

DreamWorks is now staking its future on its first full-length animation, *Prince of Egypt*. The story of the life of Moses has already been dubbed Zion King. *The Lion King* earned extraordinary profits for Disney. Katzenberg is trying to repeat the trick. But problems have already arisen. The opening of the film was pushed back a month to just before next Christmas. Katzenberg feared a clash with other film openings. He also worries about how religious leaders will react to the light treatment of such a serious subject. In an effort to head off protests from Christians, Jews and other religious groups that incorporate the story of Moses in their faith, Katzenberg will offer special showings to their leaders. He is said to have already lobbied 500 religious figures.

Now he must wait and see if his efforts to part the waves and lead his two co-conspirators to new riches will bring him a Hollywood-style happy ending. Apart from Disney, no other studio has ever had a hit with a full-length animation.



DreamWorks Records has still to fulfil its potential for David Geffen, left, Jeffrey Katzenberg and Steven Spielberg

Body blows

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

I CANNOT wait until Sunday evening for Anita Roddick's interview on CNN's *Pinnacle Europe*. This show purports to profile a prominent European business leader, and past subjects have included Gerry Robinson, of Granada; Sir Clive Thompson, of Rentokil Initial; the inevitable Richard Branson; and Ismail Merchant, the film producer (business leader?)

La Roddick's interview may not have the same impact as CNN's session with George Michael, but she is out to ruffle a few feathers. Not wishing to spoil the surprise, I can still reveal that after a spot on the soap box talking about sex discrimination, the Body Shop founder will launch into a round of attacks on all and sundry. Those who should be putting on their tin hats are rivals offering similar products — "We didn't know that plagiarism was a *bona fide* marketing ploy" — US property developers — "the malls of America ... [are] monuments of mediocrity" — and the City — "I ... do not give a bloody toss to those people who want to put [in] £20,000 to see if they can get £5,000 back quick in a week."

This should help Body Shop's rating no end.

Arty tykes

JOHN BURNS, managing director of Derwent Valley Holdings, was indignant when I called him to say we had awarded the property group "most pretentious annual report of the year" for its pseudo-Edward Hopper cover, moody Tarantino-esque page six picture, and the fact that, although the Derwent Valley is in Yorkshire, the company's slogan is "Investing in London". "We thought we would have pictures of the architects behind our projects," Burns tells me. "They are much better looking than the board." He then detailed the company's evolution from the Derwent Valley Light Railway Company — which used to run a steam train out of York station, into a property company, the only vestige of its railway past being the designer logo of a locomotive. Finally he said: "It's not as pretentious as the British Land report." Touché.

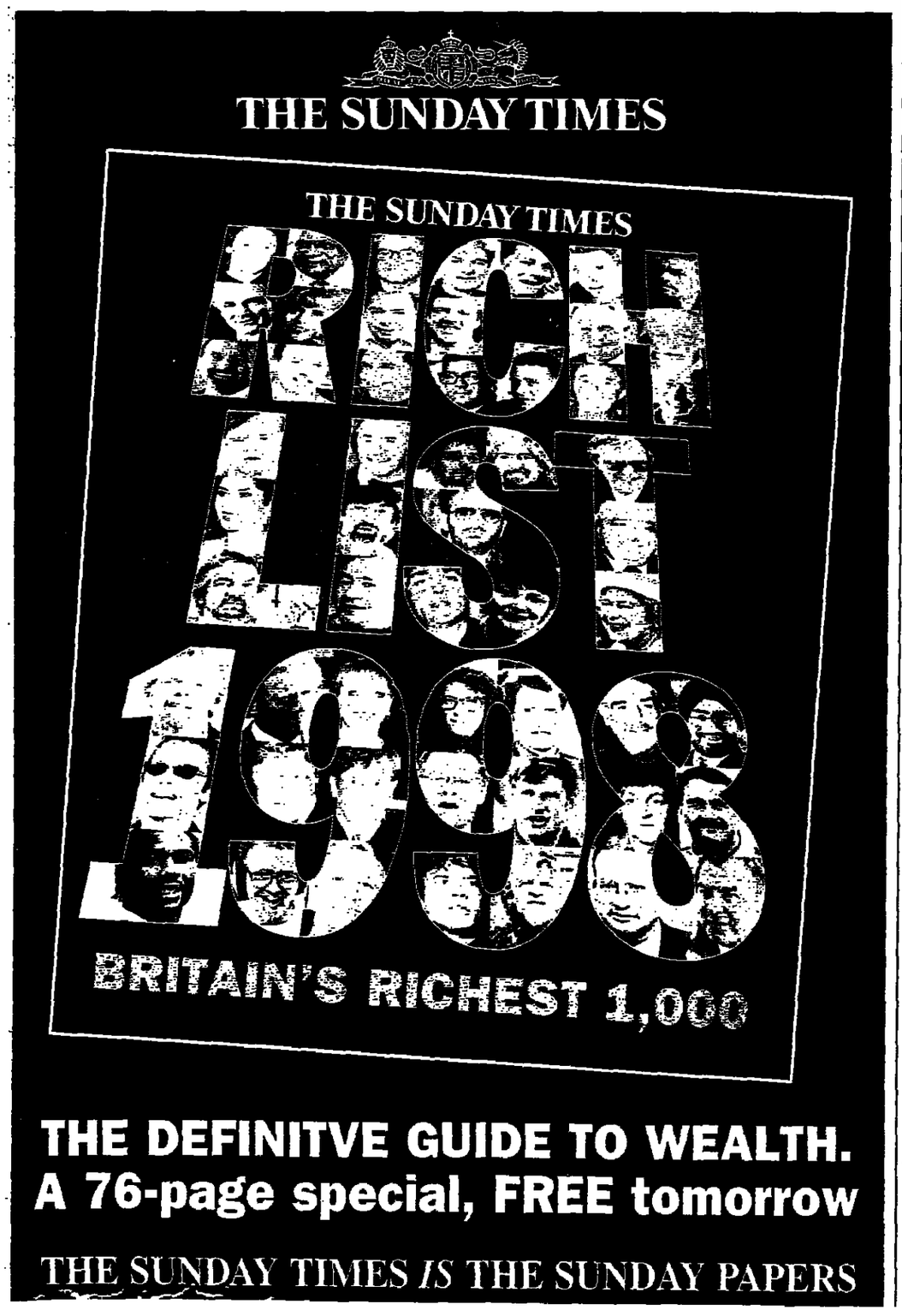
Prize in sight

FROM THE world of "you could not make this up" comes the announcement of a new literary prize. Rodenstock — the spectacles maker based in Munich (city of optics) — is inviting opticians to send in short stories. Not any ordinary short stories. They have to be no longer than 50 words and on the subject of horses.

This begs a few questions. Why only 50 words (which is less than the paragraph you have just read)? Apparently this is a particular literary form promoted by the Arvon Foundation, a charitable body whose beneficiaries include Pat Barker, the Booker Prize winner. Why horses? Rodenstock is also sponsoring two races at the Arvon Foundation Race Day at Windsor on May 18. And why opticians? According to Chris Hunt, managing director of Rodenstock UK: "Opticians are always telling us how clever and well educated they are. Now they can prove it."

☐ *SELF-SCANNING is the latest wheeze the supermarkets have devised for making customers do the work. In theory, the idea of letting shoppers wield the bar code reader as they shovel groceries into the trolley should save time at the checkout. But just to encourage customer accuracy, stores feel the need for random checks. Mark Wood, chief executive of Sun Life and Provincial Holdings, would like Sainsbury's to know that this can severely dent customer goodwill. Having methodically scanned every item taken from the shelves in a 90-minute shopping spree, he was far from thrilled to be forced to stand and watch an assistant at his local Home Counties store repeat the process. There was little comfort to be had from the finding that his accuracy would qualify him for a new career on the checkout. Lord Sainsbury may soon be receiving the Sun Life lecture on customer care.*

JASON NISSÉ



Rescuer with no frills takes on Laura Ashley



David Hoare heads a trio aiming to restore Laura Ashley

Last autumn, Sir Bernard Ashley was a nervous wreck. Ann Iverson, the flamboyant American chief executive hired to save his family company, was dragging it to fresh depths of disaster. Its shares were in free fall. His 35 per cent stake — once worth £180 million — was fast becoming worthless.

John Thornton, Laura Ashley's chairman, had a solution. Dump Iverson, with all her glamour, and bring in a practical company doctor to salvage what was left before the entire group went to the wall. He knew just the man.

David Hoare fitted the bill. A quiet, meticulous and efficient operator, and a friend of Mr Thornton, he had already been brought in to Laura Ashley to sort out supply-chain problems. After six weeks on that job, he was put at the helm of Britain's most delicately balanced recovery case and Ms Iverson was leaving with a £450,000 payoff.

Yesterday, Mr Hoare was on fine form. He had persuaded MUL a Malaysian investment company, to pay £43.7 million for a 40 per cent stake in the company, staving off growing pressure from its banks.

In the past seven months, he has calmed down from when he first saw the company's finances — which he admits left him flummoxed. "Right from the very beginning, I was very reluctant to make any forecasts whatsoever," he said. "When companies get into trouble, people often underestimate the degrees of difficulty."

He should know. For ten years, David Hoare has tackled corporate disasters of every hue. In 1987 he set up Talisman, an investment vehicle that turned round Cope Allman and Nursing Home Loans and came close to taking on Brent Walker. It also tried sorting out Maxwell Communication Corporation's US businesses.

Yet Mr Hoare remains something of an enigma in the City. Since leaving Bain & Co, the consultancy, he has formed a "loud cop, quiet cop" double-act with Rik Grogan, another former Bainee, whom he has since recruited to the Laura Ashley board.

They make an odd couple. Mr Grogan is a flamboyant dealmaker and incurable name-dropper who enjoys taking private jets to faraway places. Mr Hoare is a quiet, nuts-and-bolts man, ruthlessly efficient at examining a company until all wastage is squeezed out.

In the Talisman days, Mr Hoare was happy to keep busy with the mechanics of corporate recoveries while Mr Grogan lunched his contacts and fronted most of the investments.

With Laura Ashley, the two have been forced to switch roles. Mr Grogan is in the wings as a consultant while Mr Hoare has been catapulted centre stage as chief executive. And he likes this not one bit. "He is a very private man," says one City analyst. "His plan has been to take the profile of the company down a lot and avoid the media. And he has largely succeeded."

Mr Hoare has imported another element of Talisman: Olivier Roux, who shot to fame as the prosecution's star witness in the Guinness trial. M Roux is another Bain alumnus and, like Mr Hoare, prefers power without profile. Even when acting as finance director of Guinness under Ernest Saunders, he remained a Bain employee.

Mr Hoare invited him to take a similar consultancy role at Laura Ashley — sorting out 32 lossmaking large stores in the US, a memento of Ms Iverson. Thus the trio of friends who worked wonders at Talisman has reconvened.

While M Roux has been busy in the US, Messrs Grogan and Hoare have been trying to restore the image of Laura Ashley at home. "The shops had moved towards the high street and youth," Mr Hoare says. "Neither of those moves are competitive because we get very stiff competition with other retailers. We need to return to what people think Laura Ashley was — not necessarily what it was, but how they remember it."

Perhaps his finest achievement is taming Sir Bernard, a man of notoriously short temper. Mr Hoare has no time for egos, and is understood to have threatened to quit if Sir Bernard exceeded his non-executive role. After the Malaysians' arrival as 40 per cent owners, the influence of the temperamental widower of the eponymous Laura Ashley will be greatly diluted. Nick Ashley, Sir Bernard's son, has been seen at the company's Chelsea headquarters much less since Mr Hoare took control. Once the Malaysians move in, he can forget his boardroom aspirations.

Mr Hoare is master of the company now, but is still at the start of a restructuring that Richard Pennycook, its 33-year-old finance director, believes could take six years.

Shortly before Ann Iverson was sacked, she posed for *Vogue* in a leather suit (and little else), saying: "All those City guys love to think of me in black leather so I may as well live up to expectations."

Yesterday, those City guys settled for a plainly clothed David Hoare grimacing over a balance sheet. If he lives up to expectations, he will not make another appearance for six months. Then he will hope to have good news to announce. — otherwise Mr Hoare and Laura Ashley will be sinking to a lower profile than either would wish.

FRASER NELSON

IN THE HOT SEAT

CV: DAVID HOARE

Born: 1950.
Education: BSc, chemical engineering, Birmingham University; MBA, Stanford University, US.
Career: At 27, joined Esso in UK. Later, Bain & Co consultant. In 1987, set up Talisman. Laura Ashley chief executive since November 1997.

هكذا في الأصل

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STOCK MARKET — MICHAEL CLARK



Stock Market Writer of the Year

ARM makes spectacular debut as FTSE declines

INVESTORS lucky enough to obtain shares in newcomer **ARM Holdings** were last night counting their profits after one of the most spectacular stock market debuts in years.

ARM, the microchip designer, began trading simultaneously in London and New York at 2.30pm London time after being eventually priced by Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the US securities house, and Cazenove, the blue-blooded London stockbroker, at 575p. Such was the demand for the shares that traders struggled to keep up as the price touched £10 within minutes of the start of dealing. They later closed at 825p, a premium of 250p, as more than two million shares changed hands.

For every 1,000 shares held, shareholders were last night left sitting on a paper profit of £2,500. Such had been the demand for the shares among institutions that the group's financial advisers had been forced to raise the issuing price no less than three times.

On March 17, when the flotation was announced, brokers were looking for a price of between 325p and 385p. This had subsequently been raised to between 400p and 450p by the end of March, and by April 6 a new range of between 500p and 575p had been initiated.

About 25 per cent of the company's shares have been floated, raising almost £34 million of fresh working capital and a similar amount for existing shareholders that included Apple Computer and **Acorn Group**, down 13½p at 173½p.

The two other newcomers to the market were overshadowed by events at ARM. **LLP Group**, publisher of *Lloyd's List*, was placed at 285p and raced up to close at 347½p, its best of the day.

Also making its debut was **Desire Petroleum** after a placing at 125p by Société Générale, the broker, on AIM. The shares rushed up to a peak of 176p before settling at 144p, a premium of 19p.

The rest of the equity market was having another rough time as this week's rout continued with share prices dropping below the 6,000 level. Continuing worries about the Far East and the possibility of interest rate rises here at home, next month, again put a damper on things.

Overnight setbacks for New York and the main Asian markets set the early tone in London where the expiry of the April FTSE 100 options provided further uncertainty. The FTSE 100 index finished 79.8 down at 5,922.2, stretching the loss on the week to 183.3. Total turnover was a lacklustre 735 million shares.

A leading market-maker said: "It's been a difficult week. The buyers appear to have stayed away, giving the sellers a clear field. I think it's too early to talk of corrections."

Among the leaders **Rio Tinto** touched 858p before closing 2p cheaper at 830p after some positive comments from Morgan Stanley, the US securities house.

On Thursday Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, urged clients to buy the shares up to the 900p level, while rival Panmure Gordon was also positive on the company's stock.

The decision not to refer the bid by Texas Utilities to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission lifted **The Energy Group** 8p to 852p.

A "buy" recommendation from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, provided a boost to **Siebe**, which ended 32p up on the day at £13.04.

Granada also benefited from a broker's recommendation, finishing 2p up at £10.69 as Lehman Brothers moved from "outperform" to "strong buy".

Laura Ashley celebrated news of its cash injection with a small rise of 2p to 35½p. Malayan United Industries is paying £43.7 million for a 40 per cent stake in the clothing and soft furnishings retailer which has outlined details of a three-year recovery plan.

EMI Group retreated 17½p to 465½p on the news that Jim Fifield had resigned from the board with immediate effect and would pocket a £12 million payoff.

Confirmation of market speculation that it plans to demerge its 51 per cent stake in Hambro Countrywide could spell the death knell of **Hambros**, the merchant bank, up ½p at 285p. The group is already in talks with various parties interested in buying the bank once the disposal of Countrywide has been completed. Any bid would not include the bank's stake in **Hambro Insurance Services**, down 2p at 103½p.

Elsewhere among the merchant banks, **Schroders** tumbled 74p to £28.26. Earlier this week the price rose higher in a thin market, leading to claims that a bidder was stalking the shares.

Perpetual, the fund manager, plunged 217½p to £40.27½ after Martyn Arbib, chairman, rejected claims that his 19 per cent stake in the company was up for grabs.

Shares of **Prestbury Group**, the new vehicle of financier Nick Leslau, returned from suspension after completion of the £103 million acquisition of a property portfolio from MEPC. The shares returned at 4¾p in their new form and touched 5¾p before closing at 5¼p, a rise of ½p.

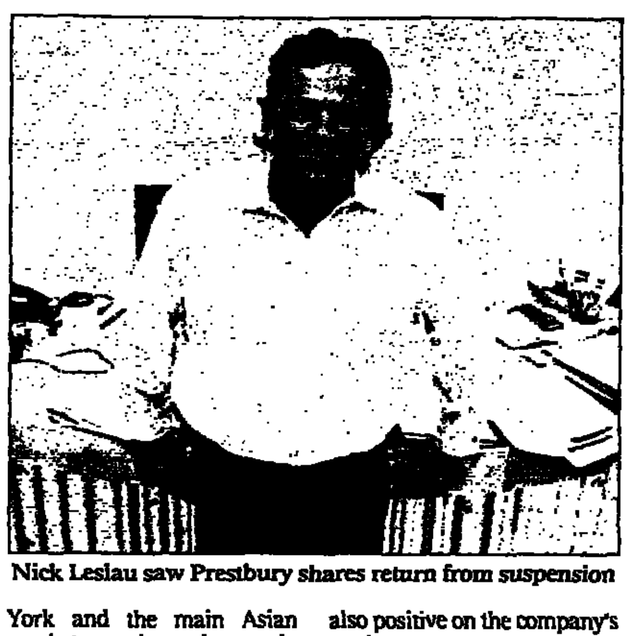
Shandwick, the PR consultant, firmed ½p to 48½p after telling shareholders that talks with various parties about a takeover or collaboration arrangement are continuing.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** There was little response in the bond market to the German Bundesbank's decision to peg interest rates and the US trade figures. Prices closed narrowly mixed in thin trading with investors reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of the weekend.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt closed a tick firmer at £107⁷⁄₃₂ as a total of 34,000 contracts were completed. The short future finished unchanged at £102.92 on turnover of 828 contracts.

Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was £⅛ better at £129⁹⁄₁₆, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 finished a tick easier at £103⁵⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were narrowly mixed in late morning trading. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 7.97 points at 9,084.54.



Nick Leslau saw Prestbury shares return from suspension

Micro Focus rallied 15p to 567½p as Merrill Lynch, the broker, managed to clear a line of stock that had been overhanging the market. It has placed a line of 1.5 million shares with various US investors. Brokers say there is now scope for further improvement having seen the price slide form a peak of 718p this year.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Associated British Foods	556p	-70p	Disappointing results
Electronics Boutique	81¼p	+19p	Bumper profits
Rio Tinto	830p	+41p	Brokers' recommendations
Lloyds TSB	979p	-43½p	Broker downgrades
Dowding & Mills	61p	-6½p	German disposal doubts
Inspec Group	276½p	+34p	Sells Dutch operation
SmithKline Beecham	721p	-89p	Talking to brokers
Tandem Group	9½p	+1½p	Continued stakebuilding
Faupel Trading	26p	-5½p	Profits warning

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9084.54 (+7.97)
S&P Composite	1110.70 (-2.53)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	15703.80 (-179.97)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11001.32 (-186.46)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	1161.76 (+4.66)
Sydney:	
AO	2867.5 (-13.9)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5266.75 (-55.39)
Singapore:	
Straits	1515.15 (same)
Brussels:	
General	18342.02 (+76.16)
Paris:	
CAC-40	3861.58 (+15.64)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1533.00 (+2.30)
London:	
FT 30	3764.6 (-52.3)
FTSE 100	5922.2 (-79.8)
FTSE 250	5519.2 (-17.6)
FTSE 350	2647.8 (-32.9)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2818.48 (-21.8)
FTSE All-Share	2777.16 (-30.52)
FTSE Non Financials	2742.16 (-25.37)
FTSE Fixed Interest	142.79 (+0.43)
FTSE Govt Secs	105.39 (-0.05)
Bargains	62647
SEAQ Volume	681.2m
US$	1.6852 (-0.0074)
German Mark	3.0465 (-0.0127)
Exchange Index	107.6 (-0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.5373
£:SDR	1.2506
RPI	160.3 Feb (3.4%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	158.5 Feb (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aberdeen Cnvtble C	99½	...
Advent 2 VCT	102	...
Desire Petroleum	144	...
Do 85% Cnv Ln 2005	108½	...
Do Zero Div Prf	100¾	+ ½
Eurotunnel 01/03 Wts	4½	...
Express Dairies	167	- 2
Guardian IT	455	- 14
Hartford Grp	3	...
INVESCO Grd Opps	102	...
LLP Group	347½	...
Microcap Growth Tst	52½	...
Murray VCT 3 (100)	97½	...
Ottakar's	199½	- 4
Oxford Glycoscncs	278½	- 8
Quester VCT 2	90	...
Safestore	69½	...
Transport Dev B	34½	...
VI Group	47½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cap & Regnl n/p (280)	4½	...
Memory Corp n/p (20)	5	...
Radstone Tech n/p (40)	9½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Siebe	1304p (+32p)
Thorn	205p (+14p)
Electrocomps	585½p (+25p)
Danka Bs Sys	330p (+11p)
Micro Focus	567½p (+15p)
TI	328p (+8p)
Inter Tech	88½p (+13½p)
FALLS:	
Stand Chart	940p (-64p)
Boots	815p (-35p)
EMI	465½p (-17p)
Sainsbury (J)	482p (-17p)
BT	635½p (-21p)
Williams	455p (-15p)
Allied Dom	610p (-20p)
Sun Life & P	580p (-19p)
Orange	405p (-12p)
BAA	516p (-18p)
Smiths Ind	815p (-23p)
Dixons Gp	565p (-10p)
Lex Service	557½p (-18½p)
Diageo	674½p (-29p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

Perpetual flying too high

MARTYN ARBIB has put an end to the remarkable rise in Perpetual's share price by declaring he has no plans to reduce his personal holding substantially below its current level of around 19 per cent. Since November, shares in the investment manager had nearly doubled from £21.57 to £42.45 — valuing it at almost £1.2 billion, or an incredible 13 per cent of its £9 billion of funds under management. To put this in perspective, the toppy £3.1 billion that Merrill Lynch paid for Mercury Asset Management, Britain's premier institutional fund manager, represented 3 per cent of funds, while NatWest paid only 1.9 per cent for Gartmore.

Admittedly, Perpetual's business is almost entirely drawn from retail investors who provide better margins. And the continuing strength of its investment record will ensure that it has enjoyed a bumper Pep season. But a 13 per cent valuation is well ahead of even the loopiest prices that unit trust companies fetched before the 1987 stockmarket crash.

In a break with his usual low profile, Mr Arbib has signalled his worry about the market's over-excitement. Perpetual's rise has been accompanied by persistent suggestions that it was in takeover talks with Goldman Sachs Asset Management. Mr Arbib's carefully worded statement falls short of a full denial, saying only that he has not talked about a disposal of his *personal* shareholding.

Even after falling back to £40.27 yesterday, Perpetual's shares continue to look dangerously high in an ageing bull market. Markets are still close to record levels when measured by price-earnings ratios and dividend yields.

But Perpetual faces another problem because its strategy of charging a premium price for a premium product is out of step with the Government's desire for financial services companies to wear sackcloth. It seems Perpetual's high-charging funds would fail to win the Government's seal of approval under its proposed system of price bench-marking. That could pose a real threat in the coming era of individual savings accounts (Isas) and stakeholder pensions.

All/UniChem

COMBINING the Italians, French and British into one company would normally seem a recipe for disaster, but Alliance UniChem seems to be handling this with some aplomb.

Yesterday's profit figures had been trailed in November, so the market was not surprised and attention was fixed on whether Jeff Harris, chief executive of the enlarged group, would have to deliver any bad news on the merger.

Instead, he said things are going like a dream and promised £5 million of extra profit this year alone. So, with the shares at 16.1 times forecast earnings, is there still time to buy?

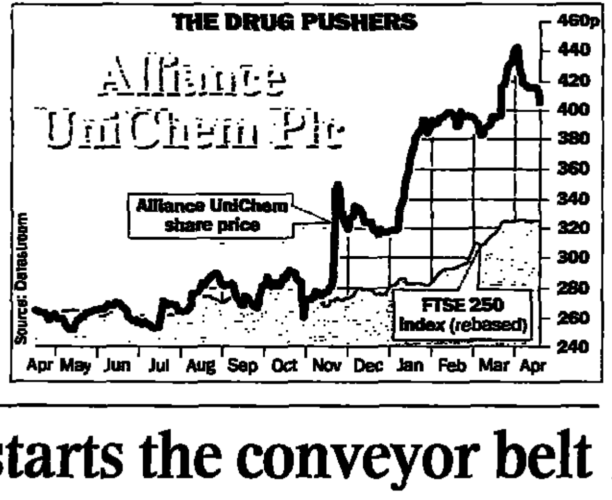
Sceptics point out that UniChem has only just begun to integrate the two companies, leaving much scope for problems later on. Mr Harris concedes that the first three months have been devoted to sorting out boardroom egos. Sorting out the lower ranks will take much longer.

But the logic behind this merger is to forge cost-saving alliances, not axe thousands of workers. There are no problematic head offices to shut down, and profits will be made by, say, UniChem nipping into Italy to buy cheap drugs if prices at home start to rise.

Alliance UniChem is a big player in a fragmented but stable market, and this should mean stable earnings growth for some time to come.

It is also well placed to muscle in on privatisation of healthcare in Southern Europe. And it can continue to pick up cash-strapped chemists in Britain who are being forced to sell up.

At a 10 per cent discount to the healthcare sector, the shares remain attractive.



Hambros starts the conveyor belt

THE remaining Hambros assets read rather like the list of prizes at the end of the *Generation Game*. On the conveyor belt is a strange mix of items of variable quality. For instance, Hambros holds shares in Corney & Barrow, the City wine bar chain, as well as owning a rather more boring Canadian fund management group.

Yesterday's confirmation that Hambro Countrywide, the insurance and estate agency business, is to be demerged from the group was greeted unenthusiastically by the market. Shares in the estate agency business still look undervalued.

Countrywide's profits jumped by 71 per cent last year to reach more than £50 million, but its shares trade on little more than eight time prospective earnings. This is substantially less than Savills, its quoted (but more upmarket) rival, which stands on 13.5 times. Earlier this month, Bradford & Bingley placed a similar value on the Black Horse estate agency.

Moreover, about half of Countrywide's profits come from the sale of insurance products, and insurance companies are trading on 18.5 times prospective earnings.

Hambros's controlling stake in Hambro Insurance Services is also up for grabs. From the day it was floated, HIS has always looked a ragbag of loss-adjusting, call centres and other financial businesses with little strategic coherence. It will most likely quickly disappear — Fishers, the loss adjuster, expressed interest last year.

The rump of Hambros, with its cash from the sale of the bank, its collection of unquoted stakes and the stake in Guinness Flight Hambro (the group's cuddly toy?) will also find buyers. But most of the value has already been extracted from the break-up.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	1018-1017	Jul	1130-1136
Jul	1037-1036	Sep	1156-1153
Sep	1059-1057	Dec	unq
Dec	1080-1079	—	—
Mar	1107-1106		
May	1123-1121		Volume: 4321

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1960-1956	Jan	unq
Jul	1900-1895	Mar	—
Sep	unq	May	—
Nov	1810 SLR		Volume: 8395

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	266.0-60.5
Spot: unq		May	270.5-65.0
Aug	250.6-50.0	Aug	277.5-72.0
Oct	255.5-54.5	Oct	283.5-72.5
Dec	260.5-58.5		Volume: 2240

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 16

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	74.55	109.10	88.70
(+/-)	+4.24	+4.23	+2.75
Eng/Wales:	74.55	111.66	87.58
(+/-)	+4.24	+6.46	+3.43
(%)	+127.0	+59.0	+151.0
Scotland:	unq	100.59	93.68
(+/-)	—	-2.93	+5.00
(%)	—	+92.0	-15.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	13.90	n/c
Brent 15 day (Jun)	14.60	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Jul)	14.80	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	16.15	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	16.40	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	161 (n/c)	165 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	140 (+2)	142 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	79 (n/c)	81 (+1)
Naphtha	128 (n/c)	130 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	137.25-37.50	Aug	143.75-44.50
Jun	139.25-39.50	Sep	147.00-47.25
Jul	141.25-41.75		Vol: 13316

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	14.55-14.57	Sep	15.43 SLR
Jul	14.83-14.84	Oct	15.68 SLR
Aug	15.10-15.18		Vol: 37234

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	74.75	May	74.50
Jul	76.75	Sep	72.50
Sep	74.75	Nov	74.50
Nov	76.75	Jan	76.50
Jan	78.75	Mar	78.50
Volume: 347		Volume: 30	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	63.0	63.0
Jan	unq	80.0
Nov	—	64.0
		Volume: 106

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 47.50-48.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 98	1045	1030	1035
May 98	1030	1025	1030
Jun 98	1010	1010	1010
Jul 98	unq	—	950
Vol: 35 lots		Open interest: 1422	

Index 992 +9

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1820.0-1821.0	1830.0-1831.0	2898175
Lead ($/tonne)	571.00-572.00	577.00-578.00	314775
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1090.0-1091.0	1114.5-1115.0	557425
Tin ($/tonne)	5610.0-5615.0	5560.0-5565.0	21790
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1415.0-1416.0	1445.0-1445.5	2056450
Nickel ($/tonne)	5325.0-5330.0	5410.0-5415.0	106452

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jul	Oct	Jan	Puts Jul	Oct	Jan
ASDA	200	24	30	38½	7	12	13
(*213½)	220	13½	20½	27	16	21½	22½
Abbey Nat	1150	114	150½	184½	54½	83	100
(*1191½)	1200	89½	125½	160	78	107	124½
Alld&Lek	850	69½	95½	118	39	59	70½
(*870½)	900	45	70	90½	64½	83½	95
Alld Dom	600	43½	60	72½	29	36½	47
(*615½)	650	22	37	50	57½	64½	74½
BAA	600	43½	58½	71	27½	33	40
(*616½)	650	21	36	47½	54½	60	66½
BAT Ind	550	49½	64½	80	30½	44½	49½
(*580)	600	27½	42½	58	58	72	77
Barclays	1700	186½	237	286½	83½	99	123
(*1795½)	1800	131	187	237½	107½	146½	171
Bass	1100	101	128½	142½	51	60	75
(*1141)	1150	76	103	115½	75½	84	98
Boots	900	64½	80	110½	34½	49½	57
(*926½)	950	39½	56	84½	60	72½	81½
Br Airways	600	43	64	74	34	44½	52
(*608)	650	24	43	52½	63	72½	80½
BP	850	75½	102½	122½	30½	49½	61½
(*886½)	900	49½	77	97	54½	73½	85
Br Steel	140	12½	16	18½	10	13½	16
(*145)	160	4½	8	11	23	26	28½
C&W	700	85½	88	109½	31½	48	56½
(*724)	750	41	64	85	57	71	81½
CU	1200	108½	151	186	51	78	93½
(*1238½)	1250	83½	126	161½	75½	101	117
GlaxoW	1600	164½	213	262	66	102	124½
(*1671)	1700	112	163	212½	112	150½	173
HSBC	1800	202	257	307½	100½	144	168½
(*1876)	1900	154	208½	260	150½	193½	218½
Halifax	850	62½	84	108½	45	56	66
(*856)	900	40	61	82	71½	82½	91½
ICI	1050	99½	129½	157½	34	57	70½
(*1098½)	1100	71½	104	132	56½	81	94
Land Sec	1050	68½	97	113	54½	70	75½
(*1062½)	1100	44	73½	89	83½	97	102
M&S	550	37½	55½	68½	21½	31	35
(*568)	600	15½	34	45½	49½	57½	61½
Nat Pwr	550	44½	61	72½	41½	48	57
(*552½)	600	25½	41½	53½	74	79	87½
Nat West	1100	112½	146½	175½	52	82½	93½
(*1141½)	1150	87½	122	151	76	107	118
Reed Intl	600	48	63	79	29	40	47
(*607½)	650	25	42	56	57	67½	74
Reuters	645	72	91½	—	24½	37	—
(*682)	703	41	63½	—	51½	65½	—
Ryl&Sun	750	62½	85½	107	42½	60	69½
(*756)	800	40	63	83½	70½	87	96
Safeway	360	24½	38½	46½	23	31½	37½
(*365½)	390	13½	27	34	40½	48½	55
Sainsbury	460	40½	53½	62	16	21	28½
(*485½)	500	21½	33½	42	36½	41	46
Shell	420	32½	45	54½	15½	24½	28½
(*439)	460	15	27	36	38	45½	49½
SmKl Bch	700	76	104½	123½	40½	61	69½
(*726)	750	52	81	100	65½	85½	94½
Std Chrt	900	109	149½	182	60	86½	105½
(*938)	950	85½	126½	159½	85½	112	131
Thames W	900	70½	88	111	31½	42½	52
(*941)	950	42	64	86	57	67	76
Vodafone	600	54½	78½	92½	38	50½	58
(*608½)	650	33½	58	69½	67	78	85
Woolwich	354	36½	37½	—	21	27½	—
(*356)	384	14½	26½	—	39	45	—
Zeneca	2500	166½	246½	307	128	174	200
(*2508½)	2600	118	195½	255½	178½	223½	249½
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BTR	200	10½	21	26	11	16½	21½
(*200½)	220	4	13	18	23½	28½	33
Blue Circ	330	25	42½	51½	8½	21	27½
(*345½)	360	10	28	37	23½	38½	42½
Br Aero	1900	108	191	249½	43½	93½	125
(*1954)	2000	54½	140	196½	92	142½	176
Br Telcm	600	56	75	89	6½	22½	30½
(*645½)	650	24	45½	62½	23½	43½	53½
Cadbury	850	52½	84½	101	15	32½	43
(*882½)	900	25	58	74½	37½	56	66
Carlton Cms	420	34½	51½	61½	5	18½	22½
(*447)	460	12	30½	42	22½	36	42
Energy Gp	850	6½	9	12	7	14½	15
(*854)	900	—	—	1½	46	50	49½
Gallaher	300	18	32½	39	8½	16½	25
(*310)	330	6	19	25	25½	33½	41½
GEC	420	31	43	53½	7	20	25
(*443)	460	11	23½	34	25½	40	45½
	Series	**May**	—	—	**May**	—	—
Diageo	613	70	—	—	4	—	—
(*679)	671	25	—	—	21	—	—
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Diageo	671	31	58½	—	21½	38	—
(*679)	729	11½	34	—	58	72	—
Hanson	330	20½	32½	40½	6	14½	20½
(*342½)	360	6½	17½	25½	22	30	36
Imp Tob	420	27	36½	47½	7½	17	23
(*437½)	460	7½	18½	28½	28½	39	44½
Kingfshr	1100	49	85	113	34	58	71
(*1106)	1150	27½	61	88	63	84½	96½
Lasmo	260	12	26½	34	9	16½	20
(*262)	280	4½	18	25	21	27½	30
Ladbroke	330	15½	30½	39½	14½	23½	28½
(*339)	360	4½	18	27	33½	41	45½
LucasVar	260	10½	22½	29	12	21	23
(*260)	280	4	14½	20½	25	33	35
P&O	850	55½	85½	98½	10	28	40
(*891)	900	25½	57	70½	30½	50	62½
Prudentl	850	62½	102½	122	19½	44	60½
(*887½)	900	35½	77½	97½	41½	68	84½
Rio Tinto	800	58	94	117½	18	37½	55
(*839)	850	29	68	92½	39	60½	79½
Redland	330	15½	16½	—	½	1	—
(*345)	360	½	0½	—	15½	16½	—
R-Royce	280	15	27½	36½	9½	17	24
(*287½)	280	6½	18	27	20½	27½	34½
Tesco	550	37	57	70	7	19½	24
(*583½)	600	11	31	44	31½	42	48
Utd Bisc	220	22	30	33	1½	5½	9½
(*238)	240	8	18	21½	8½	14	18½
	Series	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
BG	283	26	—	—	8½	—	—
(*301)	306	14	—	—	18½	—	—
BSkyB	420	31	48	59½	22½	33½	40½
(*422½)	460	14½	28½	42	45½	56	63
Br Bio	50	14½	19½	22½	4½	6½	9
(*59½)	60	9½	15	19	9½	12	14½
Centrica	100	12	16½	20	3	5	6
(*108½)	110	8½	11½	15½	7	10	10½
Dixons	550	39	59	77½	20½	35½	39½
(*565)	600	18	36½	54½	49	63	65½
EMI	460	40	53	65½	25	42	48½
(*465½)	500	23½	36½	49	48	68	71½
Granada	1050	58	88½	115½	35½	55½	67
(*1067)	1100	43	63½	90	62½	80	91½
GUS	800	56½	83½	98	25½	40½	55
(*821½)	850	32	58	73½	52½	65	78½
Lloyds TSB	950	79	115½	145½	43½	70	88
(*975½)	1000	54½	91	121½	69	94½	114
Lonrho	100	6½	10½	—	6	10	—
(*100)	110	3½	6½	—	12	15½	—
Norwich	460	31	47	57½	24½	34½	41½
(*466½)	500	16	30½	41	49½	58	64½
Orange	390	40	55½	69	16½	26½	33½
(*408½)	420	25½	42	54½	30½	41½	49
Railtrck	950	73½	104	138½	42½	59½	74
(*972½)	1000	49	79	101½	67½	84½	98
Scot Pwr	500	53½	66	81	17	26	31½
(*537)	550	26½	44	58	42	51	56
Tarmac	110	10½	14½	16	3½	5½	8
(*116)	120	5	9½	11	8	10½	13
Tomkins	330	30½	38½	45	7	14	17
(*351½)	360	14	22½	29½	19	28	31½
Unilever	600	37	54½	66	20	31½	40
(*610½)	650	15½	31½	43½	50½	59½	67

April 17 Total: 50740 Calls: 26411 Puts: 24337

FTSE INDEX (*5937)

Strike	Calls Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Dec	Puts Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Dec
5750	187	289	376	434½	—	—	90	153½	186½	—
5800	137	251½	342	404½	665½	—	104½	170	205½	333
5850	87	217	312½	374	—	—	121½	192	225	—
5900	37	187	283	344	601	—	143	211	245	370½
5950	—	157	249½	314	—	24	163½	233	265	—
6000	—	128½	219½	284	539	74	187	252	286	410½
6050	—	106½	195	256	—	124	216	278	310	—
6100	—	85	172	234½	477	174	246	307½	338½	456

April 17 Total: 9378 Calls: 4359 Puts: 5019

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 98	109-09	109-12	109-03	109-07	34697
Previous open interest 0	Sep 98	109.25	109.25	109.25	109.22	3
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 98	107.70	107.90	107.70	107.77	44665
Previous open interest 187731	Sep 98	107.52	107.55	107.52	107.50	36
Five Year Gilt	Jun 98	102.99	103.00	102.90	102.92	783
Previous open interest 10252	Sep 98				104.27	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 98	119.53	119.67	119.47	119.60	19666
Previous open interest 140234	Sep 98	120.05	120.05	120.05	120.05	150
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 98	130.74	130.78	130.74	130.76	739
	Sep 98	130.69	130.69	130.69	130.70	1
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 98	92.52	92.53	92.50	92.51	12208
	Sep 98	92.65	92.66	92.61	92.63	9433
Previous open interest 875842	Dec 98	92.81	92.82	92.76	92.79	19509
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 98	96.230	96.245	96.230	96.240	43236
Previous open interest 2218955	Sep 98	96.090	96.110	96.085	96.095	29809
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 98	95.27	95.32	95.27	95.31	32904
Previous open interest 960422	Sep 98	95.77	95.78	95.75	95.76	8063
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 98	98.35	98.43	98.34	98.38	12649
Previous open interest 146825	Sep 98	98.15	98.22	98.14	98.18	10600
Three Mth ECU	Jun 98	95.75	95.76	95.74	95.74	413
Previous open interest 48783	Sep 98	95.77	95.77	95.77	95.77	164
FTSE 100	Jun 98	6014.0	6032.0	5955.0	5976.0	21738
Previous open interest 159591	Sep 98				6055.0	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7⅛ Low 6¼ Week fixed: 7¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7¼; 3 mth 7⅛. Sell: 2 mth 6¾; 3 mth: 6¾.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7⅛-7¼	7⅛-7¼	7¹¹⁄₃₂-7⁵⁄₁₆	7⅛-7¼	
Sterling Money Rates:	7⅛-7⅜	7⅛-7⅝	7⅜-7¹⁄₁₆	7⅝-7⁷⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7⅜
Interbank:	7⅛-7⅜	7⅛-7⅝	7⅜-7⁷⁄₁₆	7⅝-7⅝	7⁹⁄₁₆-7⅛

Overnight: open 7⅝, close 6¼.

Local Authority Deps:	7¼	n/a	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Sterling CDs:	7¹¹⁄₃₂-7⅜	7⅜-7⅞	7¹¹⁄₃₂-7⅜	7⁹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7⅛-7⁹⁄₁₆
Dollar CDs:	5.54	n/a	5.56	5.69	5.75
Building Society CDs:	7⅜-7⅛	7⅝-7⅜	7⅜-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅝-7⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £599m allotted: £100m; Bids: £98.255% received: 64%; Last week: £98.25% received: 26%; Avge rate: £6.9913% last wk £7.0052%; Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⁹⁄₁₆-5½	5⅝-5⅝	5⅝-5⅝	5⅝-5⅝	5⅝-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⁷⁄₁₆-3⅜	3⅝-3⅜	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3⅜	4-3
French Franc:	3⅝-3¼	3½-3⅝	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3⅜	3⅝-2⅝
Swiss Franc:	1¹⁄₁₆-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅞-1¾	1⅝-1⅛	1⅞-¾
Yen:	⅜-⅝	⅜-⅝	⅜-⅝	⅜-⅝	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $308.30-308.60 Close: $307.00-307.50 High: $308.10-308.60 Low: $307.00-307.50 AM: $308.20 PM: $308.45

Krugerrand: $312.00-314.00 (£184.00-186.00)

Platinum: $413.00 (£244.65) Silver: $6.255 (£3.705) Palladium: $314.50 (£186.30)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 17	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.4239-3.4410	3.4281-3.4310	1¼-1⅛pr	3¼-3⅛pr
Brussels	62.730-63.090	62.815-63.869	25-20pr	62-55pr
Copenhagen	11.593-11.650	11.607-11.617	⅝-⅛pr	1¼-1pr
Dublin	1.2038-1.2144	1.2063-1.2063	14-7pr	45-35pr
Frankfurt	3.0397-3.0553	3.0442-3.0469	1-⅝pr	3-2⅝pr
Lisbon	311.38-313.13	311.83-312.18	⅝-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Madrid	258.14-259.55	258.53-258.74	65-54pr	201-182pr
Milan	3008.1-3012.1	3008.1-3012.1	55-38pr	184-161pr
Montreal	2.4088-2.4320	2.4088-2.4111	0.53-0.48pr	1.08-1.00pr
New York	1.6845-1.6964	1.6845-1.6855	0.258-0.237pr	0.755-0.725pr
Oslo	12.624-12.678	12.630-12.646	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1pr
Paris	10.189-10.240	10.202-10.211	⅝-⅛pr	1⅛pr
Stockholm	13.046-13.104	13.073-13.091	⅝-⅛pr	1-⅝pr
Tokyo	221.61-223.49	221.73-221.99	1⅛-1⅛pr	3⅛-3⅛pr
Vienna	21.386-21.499	21.417-21.437	⅝-⅛pr	2⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.5204-2.5446	2.5236-2.5262	1¼-1⅛pr	3⅛-3⅛pr

Source: Ertel — Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5295-1.5306
Austria	12.69-12.70
Belgium (Com)	37.22-37.26
Canada	1.4306-1.4311
Denmark	6.8786-6.8806
France	6.0465-6.0475
Germany	1.8034-1.8039
Hong Kong	7.7470-7.7480
Ireland	1.3949-1.3999
Italy	1782.30-1783.80
Japan	131.41-131.51
Malaysia	3.7800-3.8000
Netherlands	2.0312-2.0317
Norway	7.4846-7.4896
Portugal	184.84-184.89
Singapore	1.5980-1.6010
Spain	153.20-153.25
Sweden	7.7302-7.7302
Switzerland	1.4945-1.4955

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6862-1.6889
Australia dollar	2.5794-2.5829
Bahrain dinar	0.6310-0.6450
Brazil real*	1.9173-1.9203
China yuan	13.874-14.183
Cyprus pound	0.8805-0.9005
Finland markka	9.2025-9.3515
Greece drachma	525.25-537.35
Hong Kong dollar	13.0645-13.0740
India rupee	66.50-68.00
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5105-0.5235
Malaysia ringgit	6.3577-6.4459
New Zealand dollar	3.0080-3.0136
Pakistan rupee	73.30 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0950-6.2320
Singapore dollar	2.6951-2.7043
S Africa rand (com)	8.4480-8.6350
U A E dirham	6.1500-6.2880

Barclays Treasury • *Lloyds Bank*

WALL STREET

	Apr 17 midday	Apr 16 close
AMP Inc	42⅞	41¹⁵⁄₁₆
AMR Corp	155⅞	158⅛
AT & T	66⅞	66⅛
Abbott Labs	72⅛	72
Advanced Micro	25⅛	25⅛
Aetna Life	83⅛	85⅛
Ahmanson (HF)	75⅛	76⅛
Air Prod & Chem	85⅞	85⅞
AirTouch Comm	49⅞	49⅛
Albertson's	49⅞	50⅛
Alcan Alumnm	31⅞	32⅛
Allied Signal	45⅛	46⅛
Alum Co of Am	76⅛	77
Amerada Hess	57⅛	58⅞
AEP	48⅛	48⅛
Amer Express	106⅛	102⅛
Amer Genl Corp	65⅛	66⅛
Amer Home Pr	92⅛	93⅛
Amer Intl	133⅞	134⅛
Amer Stores	24⅛	24⅞
Amer Standard	45⅛	44⅞
Ameritech	46⅛	45⅛
Amgen	56⅞	55⅞
Amoco	86⅛	87⅛
Andrew Corp	23⅞	23⅛
Anheuser-Busch	47⅛	47⅞
Apple Computer	27⅛	28⅛
Archer Daniels	22⅛	22⅛
Armco	6⅛	6⅛
Armstrng Wrld	88⅛	88⅛
Asarco	26⅛	26⅞
Atl Richfield	78	77⅛
Atmel Corp	18⅛	18⅛
Auto Data Pro	66⅛	66⅞
Avery Dennison	54⅛	54⅛
Avon Products	82⅛	82⅛
Baker Hughes	42⅛	40⅞
Baltim Gas & El	31⅛	31⅛
Banc One	59⅛	58⅛
BankAmerica	87⅞	87⅛
Bank of NY	64⅛	64⅛
Bankers Tr NY	133⅛	134⅛
Bausch & Lomb	50	49⅞
Baxter Intl	52⅛	52⅛
Becton Dicknsn	68⅛	68⅞
Bell Atlantic	93⅞	92⅛
BellSouth	64⅛	63⅛
Best Foods	116⅛	116⅞
Black & Decker	50⅞	51⅛
Block (H&R)	47⅛	46⅛
Boeing	53⅛	53
Boise Cascade	39⅛	39⅛
Boston Scien	68⅛	67⅞
Bristol Myrs Sq	101⅞	102⅞
Browning Ferris	33⅞	33⅛
Brunswick	34⅛	34⅛
Burlington Nthn	101⅛	99⅞
CMS Energy Corp	46	45⅛
CSX	56⅛	56⅞
CBS Corp	34⅛	34⅞
Campbell Soup	52⅛	51⅛
Carolina Pwr	42⅛	42⅛
Case Corp	66⅛	67⅞
Caterpillar	56⅛	56⅞
Central & SW	27	26⅞
Champion Intl	56⅛	56⅞
Chase Manhat	137	135⅛
Chevron Corp	83	83⅞
Chrysler	43⅛	44⅞
Chubb Corp	81⅛	81⅞
Cigna Corp	210⅛	210⅛
Citicorp	158⅛	157⅛
Clorox	83⅞	84⅛
Coastal Corp	68⅛	69⅛
Coca Cola	74⅛	74⅞
Coca Cola Ent	39⅞	39⅛
Colgate-Palm	83⅛	82⅞
Columbia Energy	79⅞	79⅛
Columbia/HCA	32⅛	32⅞
Compaq Comp	25⅛	25⅞
Comp Ass Intl	55⅛	54⅛
Conagra	29⅞	29⅛
Cons Edison	45⅛	45⅞
Cons Nat Gas	59	58⅛
Cooper Inds	66⅞	67⅛
Corestates	97⅞	97⅛
Corning Inc	40⅞	39⅛
Cwide Credit	51⅛	51
Crestar Finl	61⅛	61⅛
Crown Cork	53⅛	54
Dana Corp	60⅛	60⅞
Dayton Hudson	85	86⅛
Deere	61⅛	61⅞
Delta Air Lines	126⅛	126⅛
Deluxe Corp	32⅞	32⅛
Digital Equip	52⅞	53⅛
Dillard Dept St	37⅛	37⅛
Disney (Walt)	111⅛	112
Dominion Res	39⅛	39⅛
Donnelley (RR)	45⅛	45⅞
Dover Corp	39⅞	38⅛
Dow Chemical	98⅞	98⅞
Dow Jones	52⅞	53
Dresser	49⅛	48⅛
Duke Energy	58⅞	58⅞
Dun & Brdstreet	33⅞	33⅛
Du Pont	74⅛	75⅛
Eastman Chem	72⅛	72⅛
Eastman Kodak	70⅛	71⅞
Eaton Corp	90⅛	91⅛
Edison Intl	29⅞	28⅞
Elect Data Sys	42⅛	42⅞
Emerson Elec	66⅛	66⅞
Engelhard Corp	19	19⅛
Enron Corp	50⅞	50⅛
Entergy	27⅛	27⅛
Ethyl Corp	7⅞	7⅞
Exxon	71⅞	70⅞
FDX Holding	73⅛	74⅛
FMC Corp	78⅞	78⅛
FPL Group	62⅞	62⅛
Fifth Third Banc	56⅛	56⅞
Fleet Finl Grp	88⅞	88⅛
Fluor Corp	46⅛	46⅛
Ford Motor	49	49⅞
Fort James	51⅛	51⅛
Fortune Brands	39⅞	39⅛
Franklin Res	56⅞	55⅞
GTE Corp	61	61⅛
Gannett	72⅛	72⅛
Gap Inc Del	46⅛	46⅛
Gateway 2000	48⅛	48⅛
Gen Dynamics	44⅛	45⅞
Gen Electric	85⅞	85⅞
Gen Mills	71⅛	71⅞
Gen Motors	69⅞	70⅛
Gen Reinsurance	226⅛	226⅛
Gen Signal	43⅞	43⅛
Genuine Parts	36⅛	36⅛
Georgia Pac	71⅛	71⅞
Gillette	116⅞	115⅛
Glaxo Welc ADR	56	56
Goodrich (BF)	52⅛	53⅛
Goodyear Tire	72⅛	73⅛
Great Lakes	52⅛	53
Halliburton	50⅛	50⅛
Harcourt General	53⅞	54
Heinz (HJ)	59⅞	58⅞
Hercules	48⅛	48⅞
Hershey Foods	73⅛	74⅛
Hewlett Packard	62⅛	62⅛
Hilton Hotels	32⅞	33⅛
Home Depot	70⅛	70⅞
Homestake Mng	11⅛	11⅛
Honeywell	88⅞	89⅛
Household Intl	134⅛	134⅞
Houston Inds	29⅛	29⅞
Humana	26⅛	26⅛
Ikon Office	35⅛	35⅛
Illinois Tool	64⅛	63⅛
Illinova	28⅞	28⅞
INCO	18⅛	18⅛
Ingersoll Rand	51⅞	52⅞
Inland Steel	28⅞	28⅛
Intel Corp	75⅛	74⅛
IBM	106⅞	107⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	46⅛	45⅛
Intl Paper	54⅛	54
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	71	70
Kellogg	40⅛	40⅞
Kerr-McGee	67⅞	68⅛
Kimberly-Clark	48⅛	48⅛
Kmart	18⅛	18⅛
Knight-Ridder	57⅛	57⅞
Lilly (Eli)	66⅛	63
Limited Inc	30⅞	31⅛
Lincoln Nat	90⅞	90⅞
Litton	60⅛	59⅞
Liz Claiborne	46⅞	46⅛
Lockheed Martin	111⅛	112⅛
Louisiana Pac	23⅞	23⅞
MCI Comm	52⅛	52⅞
Manpower Inc	41⅞	41⅛
Marriott Int	36⅛	36⅛
Marsh & McLnn	91⅞	91⅛
Masco Corp	59	57⅞
May Dept St	64⅞	65⅛
Maytag Corp	53⅛	54⅛
McDonalds	60⅞	61⅞
McGraw Hill	78⅛	77
Mead Corp	36⅛	36
Meditrust Corp	31⅛	31⅞
Medtronic	51⅛	50
Mellon Bk	69⅛	70⅞
Merck Inc	118⅞	119⅛
Mercury Fin	0⅛	0⅛
Merrill Lynch	93⅞	92
Microsoft	91	91⅞
Minnesota Mine	95⅞	96⅛
Mirage Resorts	22⅞	22⅞
Mobil Corp	77⅛	77⅛
Monsanto	55⅞	54⅛
Morgan (JP)	142⅛	142⅛
Motorola Inc	56	55⅞
Mylan Labs	25⅞	25⅛
Natl Semi	22⅛	22⅞
Natl Service Ind	54	55⅞
Navistar Int	31⅞	31⅛
NY Times A	72⅛	72⅞
Newmont Mng	31⅞	32⅛
Nike B	43⅛	42⅞
NL Industries	18⅞	17⅛
Nordstrom	63⅛	63⅛
Norfolk Sthrn	35⅛	35⅛
Nthn State Pwr	57⅞	57⅛
Norwest Corp	42⅞	42⅞
Occidental Pet	29⅛	29⅞
Office Depot	32⅞	33⅛
Oracle	27	27⅛
Oryx Energy Co	25⅛	25⅞
Owens Corning	43⅛	43⅞
PPG Industries	71⅛	70⅞
PMI Group	82⅛	82⅞
PNC Bank	61⅛	63
PP&L Res	23⅞	23⅞
Paccar Inc	56⅛	57⅛
Pacificorp	23⅞	23⅞
Pac Enterprises	39⅞	39⅛
PaineWebber	47⅛	46⅛
Pall Corp	19⅞	19⅞
Parker Hannifin	47⅞	47⅞
Peco Energy	21⅞	21⅞
Penney (JC)	73⅛	73⅞
Pennzoil	68	68⅞
Pepsico	41⅛	41⅞
Pfizer	102⅞	100⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	43	43⅛
Phelps Dodge	68⅛	69⅞
Philip Morris	39⅛	39⅞
Phillips Pet	50⅛	50⅞
Pitney Bowes	50⅛	51⅞
Polaroid	44⅛	44⅞
Procter & Gmbl	84⅞	82⅛
Providian	65⅛	65⅛
Pub Serv E & G	35⅛	35⅞
Quaker Oats	53⅞	53⅛
Ralston Purina	102⅛	103⅛
Raychem Corp	40	40⅛
Raytheon B	58⅛	58⅛
Reebok Intl	30⅛	30⅞
Reliastar Fin	49	49
Reynolds Metals	65⅛	66
Rockwell Intl	55⅞	55⅛
Rohm & Haas	110⅛	109⅞
Royal Dutch	56	56⅛
Rubbermaid	28⅞	27⅞
SBC Comms	41⅛	40⅛
Safeco Corp	54⅛	54⅛
St Paul's Cos	87⅛	87⅞
Sara Lee Corp	61	61⅛
Schering Plough	79	78⅞
Schlumberger	77⅞	78⅛
Seagram	38⅛	37⅛
Sears Roebuck	57⅛	58⅛
Shell Trans	44⅛	44⅛
Sherwin Wlms	35⅞	35⅛
Silicon Graphics	13⅛	13⅞
Snap-On-Tools	45⅛	45⅞
Southern Co	26⅞	26⅛
Southtrust	43⅛	43⅛
Sprint Corp	69⅞	68⅛
Stanley Works	54⅞	55⅞
Starwood H & R	51⅛	50⅛
Sun Company	42⅞	42⅞
Sun Microsys	41⅛	40⅛
Suntrust	79⅛	80⅞
Supervalu	46⅛	46⅞
Synovus Fin	35⅛	35⅛
Sysco Corp	23⅛	23⅛
TRW Inc	52⅛	52⅞
TIG Hldgs	28⅞	28⅛
Tandy Corp	49⅞	49⅞
Temple Inland	63⅞	63⅞
Tenet Healthcare	39⅛	40⅛
Tenneco	44⅛	44⅛
Texaco	61⅛	62⅛
Texas Inst	58	58
Texas Utilities	41⅛	42⅛
Textron	79⅛	80⅛
Thermo Elect	40⅛	40⅞
Time Warner	76⅛	77⅛
Times-Mirror A	61⅛	61⅞
Timken	34⅛	33⅞
Torchmark	48⅛	48⅛
Toys R Us	28⅞	29⅛
Transamerica	118⅛	117
Travelers	64⅛	63⅞
Tribune	67⅛	68⅛
UST Inc	30⅛	30⅛
US Bancorp	128⅞	128
UAL	92⅛	93⅞
Unicom	69	68⅛
US Inds	28⅛	28⅛
US West Comm	53⅛	53⅞
US West Media	37⅛	37
USAirways Group	79⅛	79⅞
USX Marathon	38⅛	37⅛
Unicom	34⅛	34⅛
Unilever NV	73⅞	73⅞
Union Camp	60⅛	60⅛
Union Carbide	50⅛	50⅞
Union Pacific	54⅛	54⅛
Unisys Corp	20⅞	20⅞
USF&G Corp	24⅛	24⅛
United Tech	96	96⅞
Unocal Corp	40⅛	40⅛
VF Corp	50⅞	52
Wal-Mart Stores	52⅛	52⅞
Warner-Lambert	173⅛	168⅞
Waste Mngmt	33⅞	33⅛
Wells Fargo	373⅞	372⅞
Weyerhaeuser	61⅛	60⅛
Whirlpool	74⅛	73⅛
Whitman	20⅛	20⅛
Winn Dixie	40⅛	40⅞
Witco Corp	39⅛	39⅛
Woolworth	24⅛	24⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	80⅛	80⅞
Xerox	107⅛	109⅞
Xilinx Inc	42⅞	42⅞

NEWS

Ministers seek lottery opinion

■ A major government drive to canvass public opinion on the National Lottery will be launched by Chris Smith this week as part of his mission to operate a "people's lottery". Punters will be asked through leaflets distributed to lottery ticket retailers by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to respond to the White Paper, published today, which will propose major changes to the way the lottery is run ..... **Page 1**

Premium Bonds bring in the rich

■ Premium Bonds, once the favourite investment of canny grannies and penny-pinching junior clerks, are fighting back against the National Lottery as the rich discover they make an extremely attractive punt ..... **Pages 1, 49**

Hospital for killer

A paranoid schizophrenic who stabbed a WPC to death was sent to a top-security mental hospital without time limit ..... **Pages 1, 7**

Pension sales reform

Ministers are to announce plans for a tough code of selling practices for savings and pensions schemes ..... **Pages 1, 29, 58, 59**

Campaign for peace

Tony Blair mounted an all-out effort to rally support for Northern Ireland's peace pact before today's meeting of the Ulster Unionists' ruling council ..... **Page 2**

Himmler remembered

Feted by the veteran Nazi elite as she was by her father, Himmler's daughter parades at an SS rally in Austria ..... **Page 3**

Oxford in the City

The Oxford Union Society is now a springboard for students aspiring to corporate finance, consultancy and law ..... **Page 5**

Ice monster afloat

An iceberg 25 miles long and three miles wide is floating in the Southern Ocean as an Antarctic ice shelf falls apart ..... **Page 9**

Parents caned

Teachers mourned the disappearance of the parental "wallop" as they blamed families for classroom tearaways ..... **Page 10**

High Street Cup

One of the biggest matches of the World Cup kicks off prematurely next week and looks set to be a hard contest ..... **Page 20**

Kennedy in ermine

Helena Kennedy was introduced into the Lords on Guy Fawkes Day, which seemed a good joke, writes Valerie Grove ..... **Page 21**

Jury summons

Susan McDougal, the Clintons' jailed Whitewater partner, has been ordered to appear before a federal grand jury ..... **Page 12**

Red tape gives Left Bank the blues

■ Jazz on Paris's Left Bank has fallen victim to bureaucracy, according to jazz lovers. Issuing a cry of alarm at what they say is the modern musical poverty of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, they condemned red tape as the enemy of creativity ..... **Page 15**

JUSTIN SUTCLIFFE



Romeo Revisited, a lithograph by Edwina Sandys, Churchill's granddaughter, which has attracted much interest in New York. Page 13

NEWS FEATURES

Tourists win: A dolphin therapy centre that has helped hundreds of children to overcome severe handicaps is being squeezed out by holidaymakers ..... **Page 6**

Man of contradiction: David Trimble, a quiet academic at the centre of an Orange storm ..... **Page 8**

Fat city: New Orleans has been declared America's fattest city, but the citizens are refusing to let it spoil their passion for food ..... **Page 11**

Stamp of authority: Two strong men face it off at the Post Office ..... **Page 18**

OPINION

Hyping it: After the bouquets, the backlash. *Faking It* is stronger on condemnation than explanation ..... **Page 23**

This House endures: The playground of power has sometimes appeared to outsiders as a nursery of privilege ..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Princess's role; Blair's Middle East tour; Japanese Emperor's visit; PR in town halls; addressing familiarity; lottery funding; London maps; measuring generation gap; the weather ..... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: John Constable never saw an ugly thing. But he was never dumped from the 9.30 Eurostar express onto the backside of Elizabeth House ..... **Page 22**

Jeffrey Robinson: Decriminalisation is not the answer. That keeps young people out of jail; but it doesn't keep drugs out of young people ..... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Fred Davis, snooker player; **Trevor Mound,** diplomat; **Ahmed Ali,** immigration counsellor ..... **Page 25**

BUSINESS

EMI: Jim Fifield has left EMI with a pay-off of more than £12 million ..... **Page 27**

Laura Ashley: A Malaysian company has 40 per cent of Laura Ashley ..... **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 79.8 points to 5922.2. The sterling index fell from 108.1 to 107.6 after a fall from $1.6926 to $1.6852 and DM3.0592 to DM3.0465 ..... **Page 31**

WEEKEND MONEY

More Premium Bonds have been sold in the past 36 months than in the previous 37 years ..... **Page 49**

SPORT

Football: Manchester United will make personnel changes at the end of the season, says Alex Ferguson, whatever the outcome of the league ..... **Page 36**

Rugby union: The destiny of the Allied Dunbar Premiership title could hang on the meeting tomorrow between Saracens and Newcastle ..... **Page 41**

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the times

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Action station: a stroll along the left bank of the Thames ..... **Page 24**
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Footsie index: Following sports fashion ..... **Page 5**
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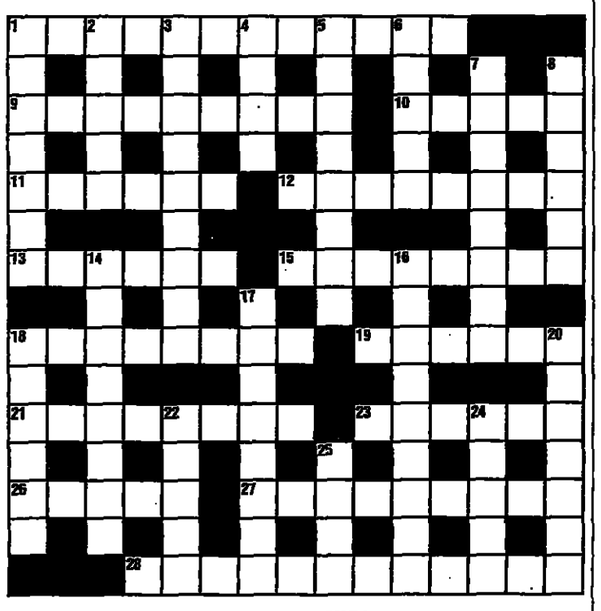
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,769

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....

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ACROSS

1 Spending less on party, and reducing effort (6-6).
9 Jacket worn by Emma or Rebecca, say (4,5).
10 Wife embracing a husband returning to Eastern state (5).
11 One of the first books going out (6).
12 Start play after tough's dismissed (5,3).
13 Fashion team is into such rich fabric (6).
15 Lamb, for example, in casseroles, say, is tasty (8).
18 It's enough to keep the corporation occupied (8).
19 Carry out surgical operation for pain (6).
21 Resigned after editor's move to change layout (8).
23 Going the wrong way, falls again to spinner (6).
26 Withdraw from a foreign state (5).
27 Destruction of fox in Kent one immediately related (4,2,3).
28 Whistler's inspiration? A source of light (8,4).

DOWN

1 These go up where many snakes go down (7).
2 One who sings old catch, to begin with (5).
3 Riding on noble railway into the interior (9).
4 Prevent score to avoid losing (4).
5 Raised one card-player endlessly, with king and four aces (8).
6 Coward holding end of bomb for explosives expert (5).
7 Speculator — one who believes gold must be retained (8).
8 A good chairperson covers it (6).
14 Singer that's old-fashioned in changing times (8).
16 In favour of authentic choral music (9).
17 Writer opening up, invaded by press (8).
18 Poet's craft manifested in elaborate style, none the less (6).
20 Rook and duck included by king, in place of other birds (7).
22 Cunning exercise producing passage needed for chapter (5).
24 Agreed, after rising, to accept king's view (5).
25 Beheaded old German — some nerve! (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20763

H	E	R	E	F	O	R	D		N	I	C	K	E	R
A		E		I		H		O		U		M		
T	I	C	K	E	D	O	V	E	R		R	E	E	L
C		O		M		M		T		T		R		
H	A	V	E	I	T	B	O	T	H	W	A	Y	S	
E		E		S		U		P		I		O		
T	O	R	C	H	E	S		B	O	W	L	I	N	G
		E		L				N						
F	I	D	E	L	I	O		B	E	D	E	V	I	L
	N		A		M		A		I		E		O	
S	U	R	G	I	C	A	L	S	P	I	R	I	T	
	U		S		N		L		S		T			
A	L	P	H		A	U	T	O	M	O	B	I	L	E
	A		O		T		O		M		O		R	
W	A	I	T	H	E		U	N	G	A	I	N	L	Y

Solution to Puzzle No 20768

O	N	T	H	E	C	A	R	D	S		J	U	D	O
	O		A		L		U		W		T		U	
S	T	I	N	K	E	R	S		A	C	Q	U	I	T
	A		G		M		S		N		R		R	
A	B	L	A	Z	E		I	N	S	T	A	N	C	E
	I		B		N		A		E		O			
O	T	T	O		T	A	N	T	A	M	O	U	N	T
	O		U		R				B		T			
O	F	F	T	H	E	H	O	O	K		S	P	R	Y
	I		T		U		I		E		A			
E	T	H	E	R	E	A	L		D	I	R	E	C	T
X	O		R		E		S		V		T			
P	Y	T	H	O	N		T	A	K	E	A	B	O	W
A		E		A		T		I		N		U		
T	I	L	L		L	I	E	I	N	S	T	A	T	E

Last week's winners: *Dr O H Krzyszkowska, Forest Gate, London; L J Hall, Wallasey, Merseyside; G Dumma, Kennington, London; J R L Nuttall, Elstree, Herts; G Mancey, Ashford, Kent.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 5.59 am — Sun sets: 8.02 pm
Moon sets 10.20 am — Moon rises 1.24 am

Last quarter April tomorrow

London 8.02 pm to 5.57 am
Bristol 8.12 pm to 6.07 am
Edinburgh 8.25 pm to 5.58 am
Manchester 8.15 pm to 6.01 am
Penzance 8.21 pm to 6.22 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 5.57 am — Sun sets: 8.04 pm
Moon sets 11.18 am — Moon rises 2.12 am

Last quarter today

London 8.04 pm to 5.55 am
Bristol 8.13 pm to 6.05 am
Edinburgh 8.27 pm to 5.56 am
Manchester 8.17 pm to 5.59 am
Penzance 8.23 pm to 6.20 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	4:58	3.6	5:33	3.5
Avonmouth	10:36	11.1	10:56	10.8
Belfast	2:34	3.2	3:12	3.1
Cardiff	10:22	10.3	10:42	10.1
Devonport	9:10	4.7	9:27	4.8
Dover	2:09	6.0	2:36	5.9
Dublin	3:21	3.5	4:03	3.4
Falmouth	8:41	4.5	8:58	4.6
Greenock	4:02	3.0	4:17	2.9
Harwich	3:15	3.6	3:32	3.5
Holyhead	1:47	4.9	2:13	4.7
Hull (Albert D)	9:51	7.6	10:22	7.4
Ilfracombe	9:26	7.7	9:49	7.6
King's Lynn	9:52	6.7	10:20	6.3
Leith	5:24	4.7	5:54	4.6
Liverpool	2:35	8.4	2:57	8.0
London Bridge	5:25	6.8	5:40	6.8
Lowestoft	1:05	2.2	1:18	2.2
Margate	3:26	4.4	3:47	4.4
Milford Haven	9:44	5.8	10:09	5.7
Newquay	8:39	5.9	9:05	5.8
Oban	9:02	3.1	9:40	3.1
Penzance	8:05	4.6	8:33	4.6
Portland	10:22	1.5	10:33	1.5
Portsmouth	2:43	4.2	3:13	4.1
Shoreham	2:24	5.6	2:54	5.4
Southampton	2:08	4.0	2:33	4.0
Swansea	9:49	7.8	10:18	7.7
Tees	7:30	4.6	8:04	4.7
Walton-On-Naze	3:09	3.8	3.25	3.7

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay, Devon, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 8C (45F); highest rainfall: Folkestone, Kent, 0.94in, highest sunshine: Lerwick, Shetland, 12.5hr.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a mix of sunny breaks and showers, with most of the showers in Kent and East Anglia. These will die away before increasing cloud spreads from the West. Western Scotland will see outbreaks of light rain, but the East will be mostly dry. Northern Ireland will have some sunny periods with a little rain in places.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England:** drier and brighter with sunny spells and showers. Wind light, northwest. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales:** mainly dry with some decent sunny periods and the odd shower. Wind light, west to northwest. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **E Midlands, W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England:** dry and mainly sunny with a few showers in the afternoon. Wind light, west to northwest. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** slight risk of a shower but there will be some good sunny spells. Wind light, northwest, later southeast. Max 11C (52F).

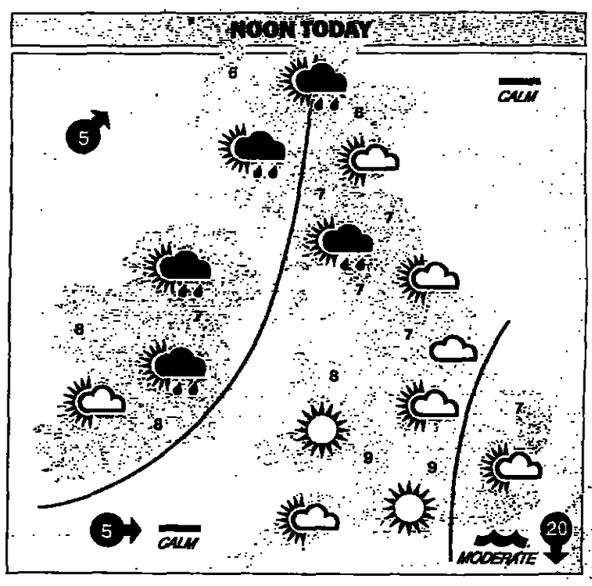
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** cloudy with some drizzle. Wind light to moderate, southeast. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **N Ireland:** plenty of cloud and risk of a shower. Wind freshening, southeast. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** bright early with showers, rain later. Wind increasing, south. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain in the West on Sunday morning will spread to the rest of the country during the afternoon. It will become milder on Monday.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

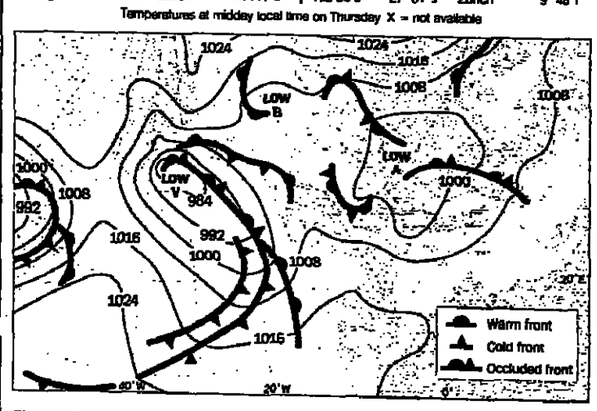
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; da=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.0	-	9	48	b	Lerwick	7.0	-	11	52	s
Anglesey	11.3	0.01	10	50	s	Littlehmptn	X	0.44	9	48	d
Aspatria	8.8	0.02	11	52	s	London	-	0.25	8	46	sh
Aviemore	6.2	0.01	8	46	sh	Lowestoft	1.2	0.06	9	48	r
Belfast	10.5	0.01	11	52	sh	Manchester	4.8	-	9	48	b
Birmingham	3.5	0.01	9	48	c	Margate	1.4	0.50	10	50	r
Bognor R	0.4	0.35	9	48	c	Minehead	X				
Bournem'th	1.4	0.32	11	52	b	Morecambe	4.4	-	10	50	b
Bristol	4.7	-	12	54	s	Newcastle	X				
Buxton	3.3	0.01	6	43	c	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	X	-	12	54	s	Norwich	0.7	0.06	10	50	c
Clacton	0.2	X	9	48	c	Oxford	-	0.01	9	48	c
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X				
Colwyn Bay	11.4	-	10	50	s	Poole	3.3	0.31	12	54	s
Cromer	3.6	-	9	48	b	Prestatyn	X				
Dunbar	X					Ross on Wye	X	0.01	11	52	b
Eastbourne	1.2	0.74	10	50	d	Salcombe	7.5	0.50	12	54	g
Edinburgh	6.9	-	10	50	s	Saunton Snd	6.8	0.04	11	52	s
Eskdalemuir	8.4	0.03	9	48	s	Scarboro'	X				
Exmouth	6.0	0.04	11	52	s	Shrewsbury	8.3	0.01	9	48	s
Falmouth	X					Skegness	1.5	-	8	46	c
Fishguard	9.3	0.01	8	46	s	Southend	X				
Folkestone	0.8	0.94	9	48	d	Southport	X	-	11	52	s
Glasgow	9.5	0.01	12	54	s	Southsea	0.6	0.15	10	50	du
Guernsey	3.4	0.42	12	54	c	Stornoway	11.5	0.01	9	48	s
Hastings	1.9	0.74	10	50	r	Swanage	2.3	0.33	11	52	b
Hayling I.	0.1	0.22	9	48	c	Teignmouth	7.1	0.07	12	54	s
Herne Bay	X					Tenby	7.5	-	11	52	s
Hove	0.8	0.46	10	50	du	Tiree	12.1	0.01	9	48	c
Hunstanton	3.5	0.02	9	48	b	Torquay	7.4	0.12	13	55	s
Isle of Man	10.7	0.01	10	50	s	Tynemouth	X				
Isle-of-wight	-	0.29	8	46	c	Weston s Mare	6.1	0.02	11	52	s
Jersey	0.4	0.53	9	48	sh	Weymouth	X				
Kinloss	10.0	0.01	10	50	s						
Leeds	1.9	0.01	9	48	c						
Lerwick	12.5	-	8	46	s						

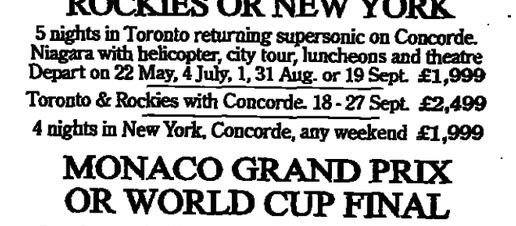
ABROAD

Ajaccio	14	57	l	Cologne	11	52	f	Madrid	9	48	f
Alicante	27	81	c	Corfu	19	66	f	Majorca	19	66	f
Alex'dria	23	73	s	C'phagn	5	41	c	Malaga	20	68	c
Algiers	19	66	f	Dublin	7	45	f	Malta	21	70	s
Amst'dm	9	48	f	Dubrovnik	15	59	c	Melb'rne	16	61	f
Athens	21	70	s	Faro	17	63	f	Mexico C	29	84	s
B Aires	21	70	c	Florence	14	57	s	Miami	27	81	s
Bahrain	30	86	s	Frankfurt	8	46	f	Milan	11	52	s
Bangkok	35	95	s	Funchal	17	63	f	Montreal	20	68	s
Barbados	30	86	f	Geneva	10	50	f	Moscow	5	41	s
Barcelona	17	63	f	Gibraltar	17	63	c	Munich	7	45	f
Beijing	13	55	r	Helsinki	8	46	s	N Delhi	34	93	s
Beirut	23	84	s	Hong K	28	79	f	N York	13	55	f
Belgrade	18	64	f	Innsbruck	7	45	c	Nairobi	26	79	f
Berlin	11	52	c	Istanbul	17	63	s	Naples	16	61	f
Bermuda	X			Jeddah	38	100	s	Nice	15	59	s
Biarritz	14	57	f	Jo'burg	21	70	f	Oslo	3	37	sl
Borde'x	11	52	r	L Angels	16	61	s	Paris	9	48	f
Brussels	9	48	c	L Palmas	20	68	s	Perth	19	66	c
Budapst	12	54	r	Le Tquet	9	48	f	Prague	10	50	f
Cairo	31	88	s	Lisbon	16	61	c	Reykjavik	4	39	d
Cape Tn	21	70	s	Locarno	9	48	s	Rhodes	20	68	s
Ch'church	14	57		Luxembg	7	45	c	Rio de J	31	88	s
Chicago	6	43	d	Luxor	44	111	s	Rio de J	27	81	s
Riyadh	35	95	s								
Rome	17	63	f								
S P'raso	13	55	s								
S Paulo	X										
Salzburg	8	46	f								
Santiago	21	70	s								
Seoul	21	70	f								
Sing'por	34	93	f								
St'kholm	5	43	s								
Strasb'rg	10	50	f								
Sydney	19	66	c								
Tangier	18	64	c								
Tel Aviv	31	88	s								
Tenerife	21	70	f								
Tokyo	18	64	f								
Toronto	10	50	r								
Tunis	23	73	f								
Valencia	18	64	f								
Vanc'ver	11	52	f								
Venice	13	55	l								
Vienna	9	48	r								
Warsaw	11	52	c								
Wel'ngton	17	63									
Zurich	9	48	f								

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low A will move east and fill; low B will lose its identity as a new low develops off northwest Scotland; low V will be slow moving as it fills



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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

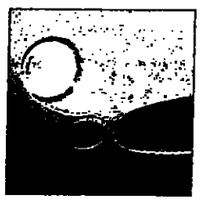
SUMMIT MEETING
How Saracens and Newcastle match up in the title battle
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DANNY BAKER
Blowing the whistle on football's decision-makers
PAGE 35

RACING CERTAINTY
Why Alex Ferguson holds the whip hand at Manchester United PAGE 36

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Cover for a classic motor
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Why the floods will increase your premiums
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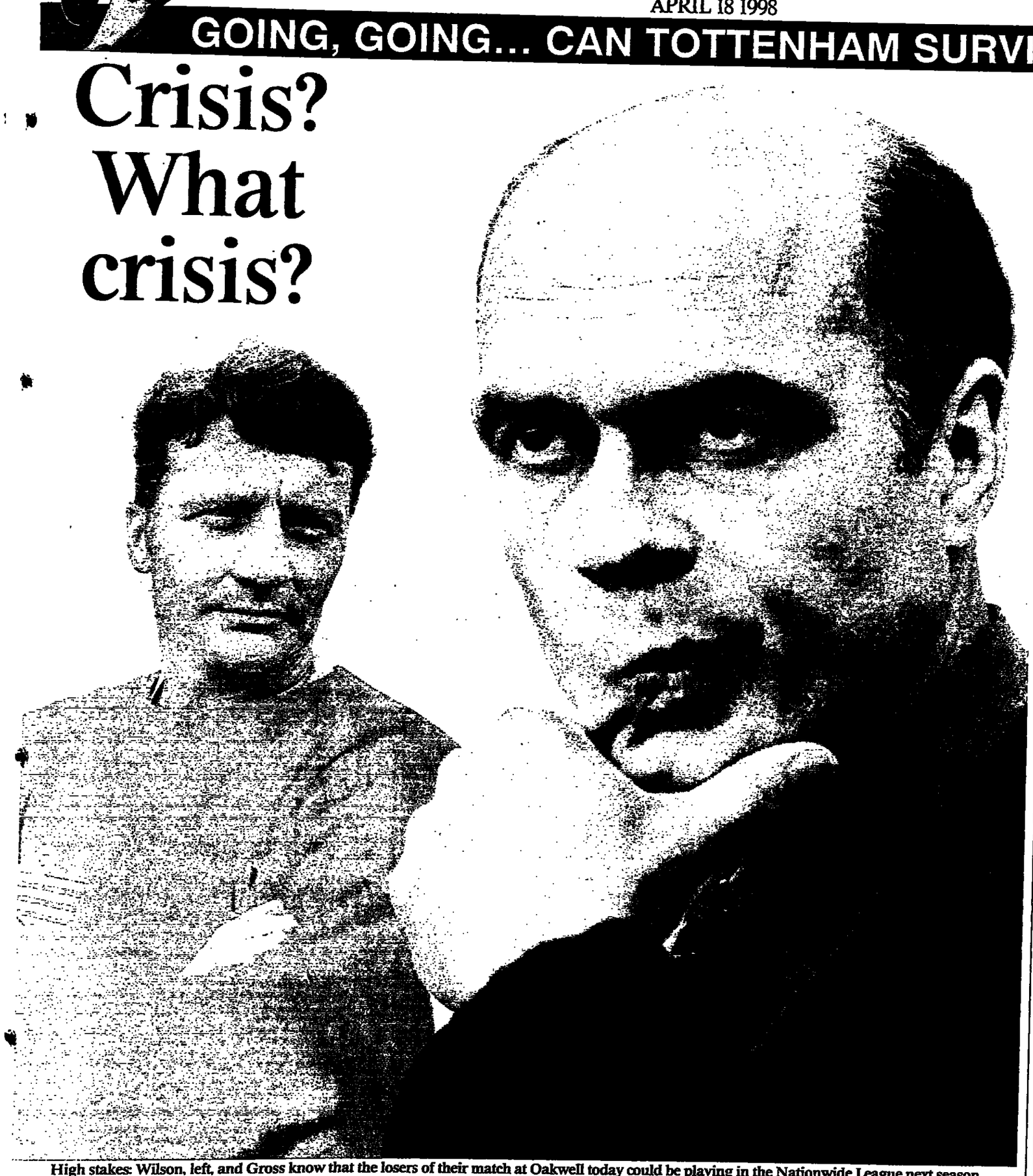


THE TIMES
SATURDAY SPORT
12 PAGES

APRIL 18 1998

GOING, GOING... CAN TOTTENHAM SURVIVE THE DROP?

Crisis? What crisis?



High stakes: Wilson, left, and Gross know that the losers of their match at Oakwell today could be playing in the Nationwide League next season

Matt Dickinson on the dissent and friction that are confronting the head coach at White Hart Lane

FOR the son of a policeman, Christian Gross has made a remarkable mess of keeping law and order. Insulted and abused this week — and that was just by his own players — the Tottenham Hotspur team he will lead to Barnsley today is not just on the brink of the Nationwide League. It is seemingly on the edge of chaos.

Hardly the preparation, then, that Gross would have wanted for a game of barely imaginable significance today in which defeat for Spurs will plunge them into the relegation zone — and quite possibly towards a crisis from which it will take them years to recover. The stakes at Oakwell, where Barnsley will enjoy the support of their fevered crowd, could not be higher.

Sat in the canteen at Tottenham's training ground in Chigwell this week, the manager appeared almost oblivious to the stresses and strains. Jokes and gibes appear to bounce off him, as do difficult questions. Yet the austere front that the Swiss coach undoubtedly sees as his strength could well prove his undoing. Dressing-room unrest has bobbled up to mutinous levels. Players complain of a lack of communication. Fans, who have so far spared the manager, complain of a lack of leadership.

Worst of all, although Gross may not be the only one at White Hart Lane to blame, has been the treatment of Gary Mabbutt, the 36-year-old veteran of almost 500 league games for Spurs. Blocked from joining West Ham United earlier this season, he was led to believe that there was a "job for life" at the club he has served so faithfully. Now he has been unceremoniously told to pack his bags.

Mabbutt, typically, has kept his peace and his dignity but others, after months of moaning privately, have now gone public. David Howells, such a proven battler in a relegation fight, greeted his exile from the 18-man squad for the match today with open disgust. Darren Anderton, likely to be kept on the substitutes' bench despite his protestations of fitness, has been similarly unable to withhold his frustrations.

Regarding Anderton's omission, Gross said: "I am not upset at players speaking out. They are adult enough to answer questions and all they are doing is putting pressure on themselves. Darren must be patient. His contract is with Tottenham, not with England."

Chris Armstrong also undermined his manager with a blatant display of dissent after being substituted in the 1-1 draw against Coventry City on Monday and Gross is thought likely to react by dropping him in favour of Les Ferdinand this afternoon.

Unhappy players, of course, are nothing new and not necessarily even a barrier to success. Alex Ferguson and Ruud Gullit provide proof enough that players do not have to love their manager to win for him. Nor is it all Gross's doing: he inherited a dressing-room of malcontent and complaints about his strict training regime should be dismissed as baseless whinges. When Roy Hodgson arrived at Blackburn Rovers from Switzerland with similar ideas, he was hailed as a revolutionary genius. Gross did the same and was dismissed as a boot-camp commandant. It was xenophobic stereotyping at its worst.

There is no doubt that in many games, the Spurs players have ducked their responsibilities. The supporters know it and this has spared Gross their wrath. But the truth is also that Gross has given his underachievers excuses to gripe with some inexplicable tactics, notably, the refusal to countenance dropping Ramon Vega or Jürgen Klinsmann.

Vega, who played under Gross at Grasshopper Zurich, appears untouchable, however lumbering his performance. His weaknesses have not only damaged Spurs, but also England, with Sol Campbell appearing to be buckling under the strain of carrying the entire defence. His form is a worry for both club and country.

Then there is Klinsmann, the only player in the world with a clause in his contract saying that he cannot be dropped. The German striker is another of the players to have clashed with his coach, in his case over tactics. No wonder people are asking the question who runs the team.

Gross's answer is a limp one. "At the time that we signed Jürgen, we had no strikers. I wasn't going to go to Italy and bring back a player with such a high reputation and not let him play. It was never going to be a decision whether to drop Jürgen or not, but now that we have everyone back, if I feel it is best for the team, he will not play.

"Jürgen is not happy with his form. He is not as successful as he would like. But the fact is, he was more involved than Chris Armstrong against Coventry and my judgment was right." He will find many Spurs fans who disagree.

Klinsmann, of course, will depart this summer in what is sure to be a huge shake-up at Tottenham, regardless of their fate. Berti, Howells, Mabbutt, Grodas and Austin are also seemingly certain departures. Others, such as Scales and Edinburgh, remain unsettled.

Whether Gross survives will depend on two things: relegation and Alan Sugar. Renowned for his stubbornness, the Spurs chairman will want Gross to see out the remaining year of his contract. Indeed, the more people that call for Gross to go, the more likely Sugar is to stick by him. Relegation may test the computer tycoon's loyalty, though, and on that score, he will be considerably the wiser by the end of this afternoon.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
17 Newcastle	33	10	9	14	31	39	39

Today: Manchester United (a). **April 25:** Tottenham (a). **April 29:** Leicester (a). **May 2:** Chelsea (h). **May 10:** Blackburn (a)

18 Everton	34	9	11	14	38	47	38

Today: Leicester (h). **April 25:** Sheffield Wednesday (h). **May 3:** Arsenal (a). **May 10:** Coventry (h).

19 TOTTENHAM	34	9	9	16	34	52	38

Today: Barnsley (a). **April 25:** Newcastle (h). **May 2:** Wimbledon (a). **May 10:** Southampton (h)

20 Bolton	34	7	13	14	31	53	34

Today: Leeds (h). **April 25:** Aston Villa (a). **May 2:** Crystal Palace (h). **May 10:** Chelsea (a)

21 BARNSLEY	34	10	4	20	36	76	34

Today: Tottenham (h). **April 25:** Arsenal (h). **May 2:** Leicester (a). **May 10:** Manchester Utd (h).

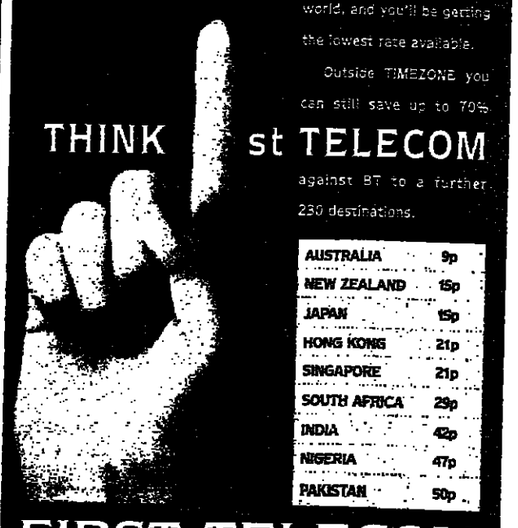
22 Crystal Palace	33	6	8	19	28	59	26

Today: Derby (h). **April 27:** Manchester Utd (h). **May 2:** Bolton (a). **May 5:** West Ham (h). **May 10:** Sheffield Wednesday (h)

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Hazell sets sights on appearing on screen

■ **BOWLS:** Sandy Hazell, from Kent, who won the women's world indoor singles title in 1996, needs to win her next three matches to become the first woman to earn a place in a televised bowls event since the new open qualifying system was introduced by the World Bowls Tour (David Rhys Jones writes).

Yesterday, in the Professional Bowls Association play-offs in Blackpool, she defeated Winston Scott, a professional bowls coach from Co Antrim, 7-3, 7-1, and will now play Jonathan Forey, who won two Welsh titles last week.

■ **FOOTBALL: The World Cup organisers yesterday released telephone numbers for people wishing to buy the final 110,000 tickets for the finals in France this summer. From April 22 to May 2, tickets will be available for calls from Europe on 0033 1 49 87 53 54. Lines will be open from 8.0am until 8.0pm during weekdays and from 9.0am to 8.0pm on Saturdays.**

■ **BADMINTON:** Kelly Morgan, already the highest placest British woman since computerised rankings began seven years ago, attempts to become Britain's first singles finalist for eight years in the European championships, which start in Sofia today.

■ **RACKETS: Willie Boone will attempt to add the world doubles championship to his array of titles when he and Peter Brake take on the holders, Shannon Hazell and Neil Smith, in the first leg at Clifton College today.**

■ **RUGBY UNION:** London Broncos will become the second rugby league club to participate in the Middlesex Sevens this year.

CRICKET

Lara's fall brings no comfort to Durham

BY JACK BAILEY

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Durham won toss): Durham, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 319 runs behind Warwickshire

A RAMPAGING century from Neil Smith, an eight-ball nought from Brian Lara, a wicket for Ed Giddins with the fifth ball bowled for his new county meant that there was no shortage of incident. But in the end it was a familiar-looking tale that unfolded as Durham failed to sustain their early promise and Warwickshire, though lacking six front-rank players through injury, did enough to emerge on top before bad light brought play to a close 19 overs early.

Lara may have fallen 501 runs short of his highest score against Durham, and Warwickshire may have lost three prime wickets in lurching to 24, but it was only a matter of time before they asserted themselves. Such was the rawness of Durham's attack once Betts and Wood, their opening pair, were rested, that someone was bound to cash in.

In fact, Warwickshire had lost five good men for 115 before Smith, their eventual saviour, strode to the wicket. You might have thought it was mid-season from the alacrity with which he rose to the challenge. The third first-class century of his career would have come even faster than the eventual count of 111 balls had he not paced himself carefully as he sighted his hundred. As it is, a tally of two sixes and 13 fours in his 113 paints a true picture of his dominance.

His power on the off side set up a self-destructive spiral for Durham. As Smith plays, with his inside-out method, almost everything pitched on the off-side of middle went through or over the covers. So Boon gave his bowlers seven fielders on the off side. Then, paradoxically, the bowlers dare not bowl except to feed Smith's strength and he made the most of it.

All of which ruined a day that had begun promisingly for the Durham captain. Capturing Ostler's wicket with the fourth ball of the day as a yorker from Betts plucked out the off-stump was a good start. The removal of Lara after he had faced eight balls was even better. Wearing so many sweaters that he looked for all the world like the Michelin Man, Lara played back to a ball slanting across him and edged thinly to the wicket-keeper. Wood was the bowler just as he was when an assured-looking Knight was bowled played forward to one that came back at him off the seam.

A stand of 91 between Hemp and Penney was aided by some nervous overs from young Harmison. They lifted the pressure at a vital time and the Warwickshire batsmen took full toll. Harmison's first three overs cost him 27 and, although he returned to bowl more creditably later, the damage was done. Betts, whose five wickets were deserved reward for his persistence, produced the first of two wickets to fall in two balls just before lunch, but then came Smith, and Durham's familiar raggedness of past seasons returned. Nor were their spirits much lifted by the mode of dismissal chosen by Lewis when their turn came to bat.

He padded up to a straight ball from Giddins that hit his off-stump. Giddins was back and so was Lewis.

DAVID JONES



Wood jumps for joy as Lara walks away having been caught behind without scoring

Slater's debut cut short by unlucky break

BY RICHARD HOBSON

DERBY (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss): Derbyshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are three runs behind Nottinghamshire

CAPTAINCY must have seemed easy to Dominic Cork yesterday. Derbyshire assumed control in the first session, when they removed seven Nottinghamshire batsmen, and so far they have refused to allow the advantage to slip. A day free of trouble remains anathema, however, for a team that endured all manner of strife last season.

Michael Slater, the Australia batsman, marked his county debut by breaking a bone in his left hand in the field. A specialist last night told the club that Slater will be out for a month. Tweats assumed the opener's role in his stead and put on 78 with Rollins, comfortably the best partnership of a day truncated by 20 minutes. He resumes two runs short of his half-century.

Slater was hurt in the 26th over, when Johnson edged an attempted cut against Dean. He spilt the stinging chance at second slip, but Tweats ran around from first slip to take the catch and such alertness characterised Derbyshire's efforts on a perishing morning.

The fielders provided the bowlers with the service they deserved for an entirely sensible approach in helpful conditions. DeFreitas set the tone in his opening spell by checking his pace to concentrate on a good line and appropriate length. The ball swung considerably, a crosswind assisted movement and none of the Nottinghamshire batsmen – not even Dowman, who occupied the crease for more than two hours in accumulating 19 – was ever truly "in".

Pollard, too, adopted a watchful approach before paddling up to DeFreitas and, three overs later, Gallian's first innings for his new county ended when he edged an outswinger by Cork to slip. As Nottinghamshire declined steadily to 118 all out, Johnson might have pondered his wisdom in deciding to bat.

A score of 56 for three became 64 for six when Aldred claimed three wickets in 12 balls. Robinson began his valedictory season by edging to Slater, who promptly left for an x-ray, before. Afzaal was bowled between bat and pad and Dowman fell leg-before.

Nottinghamshire included four recognised opening batsmen, as well as another four who justify all-rounder status. Their order needed depth, but wickets continued to fall. Dean had Wharf leg-before with a full-length ball and Tolley perished immediately after lunch.

Cork chose an opportune moment to recall himself to the attack. Noon decided inappropriately to cut and gave Krikken a regulation catch, and Evans, whose attacking approach had taken him to 28, provided the wicketkeeper with a second victim.

Byas's graft pays off handsomely

HEADINGLEY (first day of four: Somerset won toss): Yorkshire have scored 253 for seven wickets against Somerset

BY BARNEY SPENDER

THE sky rarely lost its pewter tint and a bitterly cold wind swept through the ground all day but around 500 Yorkshire supporters still gathered to greet the start of the season.

Their fidelity, which stems perhaps from a belief that they can win their first championship since 1968, was rewarded twofold. Not only did they witness an entire day's play, but a carefully constructed 101 from David Byas, the captain, gave the Yorkshiremen the early initiative.

However, a late burst from Marcus Trescothick, Somerset's medium-pace all-rounder, redressed the balance as he claimed three for five in 18 balls to finish with career-best figures of four for 47.

Byas struck 15 boundaries but it was mostly attritional rather than attractive with his runs coming from 251 balls. With the pitch giving the Somerset seamers some assistance throughout, it was an important innings, especially after Graham Rose had trapped Anthony McGrath leg-before in the fourth over. Runs were hard to come by, with Andy Caddick bowling beautifully without reward at the other end.

Byas and Michael Vaughan duly dropped anchor and added 81 before Vaughan drove lazily at Trescothick's gentle seamers and was bowled for 46 just after lunch. Byas then added 130 with Matt Wood, who marked his championship debut with a half-century.

Alleyne rewarded for cold courage

BRISTOL (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss): Glamorgan have scored 204 for seven wickets against Gloucestershire

BY PAT GIBSON

MARK ALLEYNE, who made such a good impression in his first season as Gloucestershire captain last year, lost no time in throwing down the gauntlet to the county champions yesterday.

He turned his back on the warmth of the dressing-room by putting Glamorgan in and was rewarded by a tenacious performance by his bowlers and fielders on a sunny but numbingly cold and windy afternoon.

Even so, Courtney Walsh, who had flown in from the Caribbean only two days earlier, ran in as willingly as ever when play began three hours late on a pitch that played pretty well, considering the weather of the past week, and the Gloucestershire bowlers did not have to look any farther for inspiration.

Alun Evans, 22, seemed well-equipped to fill the gap left by the departure of Hugh Morris in an opening stand of 64 with Steve James but, once they had fallen to successive balls, Glamorgan lost wickets regularly.

Alleyne had Evans caught at second slip as he tried to whip him through mid-wicket and James was caught behind off Jon Lewis. Matthew Maynard was deceived by Walsh's slower ball, Cottey pinned leg-before by Alleyne and Butcher run out by Hancock's direct hit from square leg, leaving Adrian Dale battling to keep Glamorgan alive with an unbeaten 59.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Chicago White Sox 8 Baltimore 2; Seattle 3 Minnesota 2 (10 inning); Oakland 12 Kansas City 7; Tampa Bay 8 Anaheim 5.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 12 Philadelphia 4; Atlanta 3 Pittsburgh 1; St Louis 5 Arizona 4 (first game); Arizona 8 St Louis 2 (second game); Chicago Cubs 8 NY Mets 4, Milwaukee 5 Montreal 3 (14 inning). Los Angeles 4 Colorado 3 (10 inning); Houston 7 Cincinnati 4.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-off, second leg: London Leopards 98 Manchester Giants 107 (series tied 1-1).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) New York 108 Toronto 79; Utah 99 Sacramento 88; Portland 99 LA Clippers 80; San Antonio 110 Vancouver 97, Golden State 88 Dallas 82.

BOWLS

BLACKPOOL BOROUGH: Professional Bowls Association play-offs (for the International Open in October): First round: Section three: R Stanley (Eng) bt G Cole (Scot) 2-7, 7-2, 7-4. Section four: C Rosinski (Scot) bt D Welch (Eng) 7-0, 7-6; B Kingdon (Wales) bt I Campbell (Scot) 1-7, 7-6, 7-6; M Nutt (Ire) bt B Millican (Eng) 7-2, 7-1; E Henry (Eng) bt S Butler (Wales) 7-4, 5-7, 7-4; S Glen (Scot) bt A Wills (Eng) 4-7, 7-8, 7-0; K Johnstone (Scot) bt A Mathias (Wales) 7-0, 4-7, 7-5; G McKenzie (Scot) bt K Drury (Eng) 7-0, 7-3; D Weeks (Wales) bt R Vaughan (Eng) 7-3, 7-5; J Wickham (Eng) bt A Watt (Eng) 7-0, 7-4, N Wallace (Eng) bt C O'Gorman (Ire) 7-5, 7-2; S Airey (Eng) bt C Keedwell (Eng) 7-4, 7-3. Section five: J Allan (Scot) bt N Davison (Eng) 2-7, 7-0, 7-1; P Rowlands (Wales) bt K Dick (Eng) 7-6, 7-5; S Mead (Eng) bt G McCartney (Scot) 7-5, 6-7, 7-2; R Paterson (Scot) bt G Fountain (Eng) 7-4, 7-1; D Harding (Wales) bt G Proctor (Scot) 7-1, 7-1; B Broad (Wales) bt D Bell (Eng) 2-7, 7-1, 7-5, T Taylor (Eng) bt P Orr (Eng) 7-0, 7-0. Section six: R Cutting (Eng) bt A Kelly (Scot) 3-7, 7-5, 7-4. Second round: Section two: P Carpenter (Wales) bt D Bolt (Eng) 7-0, 5-7, 7-3. Section three: D Holl (Eng) bt A Gowshall (Eng) 7-1, 7-3.

CYCLING

CEBU: Tour of the Philippines: Second stage (130.9km) 1, M M Hamad (Malaysia) 3hr 6mn 38sec, 2, W Davadilla (Phil), 3, S N M Razali (Malaysia); 4, G Espiritu (Phil); 5, C Gueto (Phil) all at same time. Overall positions: 1, Davadilla 8hr 10mn 31sec, 2, Espiritu at 24sec, 3, A Guerrimz (Phil) 4mn 53sec, 4, H T Seong (Malaysia); N Oconer (Phil) both at 5:16.

EQUESTRIANISM

HELSINKI: Volvo World Cup: First leg: 1, Virtual Village Grannusch (J Whitaker, GB) 0 faults in 55.03sec; 2, Loro Piana Baloubet du Rouet (F Pessoa, Br) 0 in 56.31, 3, Esprit (L Nieberg, Ger) 0 in 56.94. Other British placings: 14, Two Step (M Whitaker) 63.78, 24, It's Otto (G Billington) 68.20.

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Chelsea 3 Vicenza 1 (Chelsea win 3-2 on agg).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Grantham 1 Redditch 0.

RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Grays 1 Hampton 2. Second division: Leighton 2 Tilbury 3.

BANK'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bilcowich 1 Stafford 2.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk 0 Drogheda 2.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich 1 Wimbledon 1.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Leeds 3 Stoke 1.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Knypersley V 3 Stratford T 3.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division north: Hoddesdon 0 Brache Sparta 1.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Wroxham 2 Fakenham 0.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingtion 1 Tiverton 5.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Tyneside Under-11 festival: Bradford A 2 Bassetlaw A 0; Gloucester 1 Bradford B 1; Rotherham 2 South Shields 3; Luton 1 Newcastle A 4; Bassetlaw B 0 Newcastle B 2; Leeds 1 Newham 3; Rother Valley A 2 North Tyneside A 2; Chester-le-Street B 1 Rother Valley B 0; Sunderland 1 Vale of White Horse 0; Chester-le-Street A 0 Oldham 3; Manchester 2 Peterlee 5. ESFA Isle of Wight festival: Blackburn 2 Gosport 0; Allerdale 3 Isle of Wight 5; Lowestoft 5 Yeovil 3; Bridgewater 2 Spen Valley 4; Sheffield 1 Walsall 0; Bury 2 Vale of White Horse 1; Doncaster B 3 Isle of Wight XI 3; Hartlepool 3 Basilton and Brentwood 0; Newham 2 Bishop Auckland 5; Wakefield 2 Gateshead 3, Leeds 3 Cambridge 0; Reading 0 Manchester 2, Derby 2 Bolton 5, Plymouth 2 Doncaster 2, East Cornwall 2 Bradford 2.

☐ *All other games postponed*

GOLF

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: PGA tournament: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 66: J Huston, D Tewell, J Haas. 67: F Lickliter, N Price (Zim), K Gibson, D Love, P Mickelson, G Day. 68: F Allem (SA), V Singh (Fiji), F Nobilo (NZ), J Parnevik (Swe), R Mediate, N Lancaster, R W Eaks, J Cook, B Estes. Other scores: 69: D Frost (SA). 70: N Faldo (GB) 71: P-U Johansson (Swe), J Leonard. 73: E Els (SA), G Waite (NZ) 75: S Appleby (Aus).

MYRTLE BEACH, South Carolina: LPGA Myrtle Beach Classic: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 62: M Mallon. 65: C McCarthy 66: C Nilsmark (Swe). 67: H Stacy, S Lowe, P Hurst. 68: J Crafter (Aus), K Webb (Aus), K Poppenwiser, L Benrenutt (Br). 69: S Steinhauer, L Rittenhouse, M McNamara, M Edge, Ji Hyun Suh (S Kor), A Ridgeway, J Moodie, M Lunn (Aus), J Lee, D Ammaccapane, H Alfredsson (Swe). 70: A M Palli (Fr), L Neumann (Swe), L Davies (GB) 71: J Stephenson (Aus), S Strudwick (GB), K Lunn (Aus), C Koch (Swe), L Hackney (GB).

ICE HOCKEY

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia: World championships: Slovenia 4 Norway 3; Ukraine 6 Poland 3; Ukraine 6 Poland 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Pittsburgh 4 Carolina 1; Montreal 2 Ottawa 0; NY Islanders 4 Tampa Bay 0, Philadelphia 7 Florida 3, New Jersey 1 Chicago 1, Colorado 4 San Jose 1; Phoenix 3 Dallas 2; St Louis 7 Los Angeles 3.

RUGBY UNION

Super 12 tournament

Auckland	34	Northern B	24

Auckland Blues: Tries: Cashmore 2, Willis, Lomu Cons: Cashmore 4 Pens: Cashmore 2. Northern Bulls: Tries: Goosen, Steyn Con: Van Straaten. Pens: Van Straaten 4

(at Pukekohe)

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Manly 28 Brisbane 4: Sydney City 50 Adelaide 12.

TENNIS

BARCELONA: Conde de Godo tournament: Third round: T Martin (US) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 6-3, 7-5; C Moyá (Sp) bt B Ullmach (Cz) 6-4, 7-6; C Costa (Sp) bt M Safin (Russ) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; S Bruguera (Sp) bt F DeWulf (Bel) 6-3, 1-6, 7-5. Quarter-finals: A Berasategui (Sp) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-4, 6-4, A Gaudenzi (It) bt Bruguera 3-6, 6-2, 6-3; Moyá bt D Hrbaty (Slovakia) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

MAKARSKA, Croatia: Makarska Open: Second round: L Nemeckova (Cz) bt C Black (Zim) 6-2, 7-5; O Lugina (Ukr) bt C Torrens-Valero (Sp) 6-3, 6-1; K Hrdlickova (Cz) bt M Lucic (Cro) 6-4, 7-6. Quarter-finals: Hrdlickova bt Lugina 3-6, 7-5, 6-4; G L Garcia (Sp) bt A Alcazar (Sp) 7-6, 3-6, 8-1. Nemeckova bt S Kloesel (Ger) 7-6, 4-6, 6-0. Fang Li (China) bt P Suarez (Arg) 6-4, 6-2.

TOKYO: Japan Open: Men: Quarter-finals: J-M Gambill (US) bt T Herman (GB) 6-3; D Vacek (Cz) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-4, 6-1; B Black (Zim) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 6-2, 6-3; A Pavel (Rom) bt D Dilucia (US) 6-3, 7-6. Women: Quarter-finals: A Sugiyama (Japan) bt E da Lons (US) 4-6, 6-1, 6-1. C Morariu (US) bt N Sawamatsu (Japan) 7-5, 6-3; A Frazier (US) bt N Pratt (Aus) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; Wang Shi-ting (Taiwan) bt L McNeil (US) 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Lewry ruins Atherton's revival plan

HOVE (first day of four; Sussex won toss): Lancashire have scored 23 for one wicket against Sussex

IF MICHAEL Atherton was hoping to spend more time with his bat when he gave up the office of England captain last month, then he is having little joy (Simon Wilde writes). Unwanted for the one-day series with which his fateful West Indies tour concluded, he finally got back into the middle only to be out for nought.

For Atherton, who has pledged to make more runs than of late for Lancashire and restate his claim to play in every England match, this was the last thing he wanted. It was bitterly cold and play did not begin until 4pm, but he was leaden-footed in response to Lewry's inswinger and palpably leg-before.

It was a good first wicket for Lewry, who has been out for 20 months with a back injury, but well though he bowled, Atherton's confidence was eroded by three maidens from Kirtley, whose lively bowling has troubled him before.

Lancashire were grateful to sustain no further loss in 80 minutes of play and Atherton to retreat for a session with the bowling machine.

Hussain adapts to change in climate

BY IVO TENNANT

WORCESTER (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 208 runs behind Essex

IT WAS so cold at New Road yesterday that John Hampshire, one of the umpires, swathed his head in a pile of white wool, wore mittens of the same hue, innumerable sweaters and, incongruously, sunglasses. Given that the conditions were not exactly conducive to attractive cricket, some of the batting and much of the bowling was exemplary.

Four batsmen made runs. Hussain and Stuart Law shared a partnership of 113 in 25 overs, Grayson reached a half-century and Irani struck eight fours in a bright innings of 41. Essex should have finished with a bigger total than 257, even though the pitch offered the medium-pacers some assistance.

Sheriyar finished with four wickets, having Robinson leg-before with his first ball of the day, Prichard and Hussain taken by Rhodes and, considerably later, bowling Ilott. Containing or dismissing Law was a different proposition, as many a bowler will discover. His 45, which included seven fours, bespoke class.

For Hussain, there was a need to readjust to English conditions. He did so admirably with 13 fours in his 68, made off 123 balls, but other than some defiance from Grayson, the innings fell away after that.

Sheriyar was the leading Worcestershire wicket-taker last year and, as he will have greater support if the likes of Newport stay free of injury, should fare well again. Moody, his captain, will not be back until the Benson and Hedges Cup matches start towards the end of this month, but Hick, deputising, will be pleased enough with this start.



Hussain: hit 13 fours

Students grant initiative to White

THE PARKS (first day of three; Oxford University won toss): Hampshire have scored 352 for four wickets against Oxford University

BY RUPERT COX

THE Parks is rarely a bleak, unforgiving venue for cricket but, yesterday, with a chill northerly wind, and the statutory early-season leaden skies, it most certainly was. Not a day for umpires or fielders, rendering the decision of the Oxford University captain, James Fulton, to field all the more inexplicable.

Umpires are invariably the forgotten men of cricket, often cast into the spotlight only by dint of a television replay. But Peter Willey, the Test Match umpire, found the uncompromising conditions verging on unplayable, and during the lunch interval marched into the press box saying: "I'm phoning Lord's, it's freezing out there!"

Willey's inquiry to the ECB sought to clarify when it should be deemed too cold to play. His questions were met with scepticism, clearly evidenced by the prompt restart after the interval. In view of the cold, Hampshire, under their new captain, Robin Smith, were only too happy to take first use of the wicket. Their fledgeling opening partnership of Jason Laney and Giles White posted 195, when Laney's exuberance saw him loft to mid-off, though not before he had registered the first first-class century of the season from 187 balls with 13 fours and one six.

It will be the source of much solace to Hampshire, who have traded in the mainstay of last summer's batting, Matthew Hayden, for an overseas fast bowler. Nixon McLean, that Laney and White have gelled so early. White accelerated, unaffected by Smith's cursory innings, to reach a fluent career-best 150, and Matthew Keech weighed in with 70.

Lowe shines in the gloom

James Whitaker, the Leicestershire captain, led a posse of voluntary cover removers when a glimmer of play was possible against Cambridge University at Fenner's yesterday. In the 59 minutes the weather allowed, Leicestershire lost Darren Maddy to Jon Lowe in making 24, before rain and an early tea prefaced play being abandoned.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire

DERBY (first day of four; Nottinghamshire won toss): Derbyshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are three runs behind Nottinghamshire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

M P Dowman lbw b Aldred	19
P R Pollard lbw b DeFreitas	12
J E R Gallian c Tweats b Cork	2
*P Johnson c Tweats b Dean	13
R T Robinson c Slater b Aldred	5
U Afzaal b Aldred	0
C M Tolley lbw b Dean	9
A G Wharf lbw b Dean	2
†W M Noon c Krikken b Cork	6
K P Evans c Krikken b Cork	28
M N Bowen not out	2
Extras (lb 2, w 2, nb 16)	20
Total (47.4 overs)	118

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-28, 3-56, 4-61, 5-61, 6-64, 7-67, 8-74, 9-97.

BOWLING: DeFreitas 10-4-12-1; Cork 12.4-4-45-3; Dean 11-4-29-3; Aldred 14-2-30-3.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

A S Rollins c Dowman b Bowen	44
T A Tweats not out	48
I D Blackwell not out	20
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (1 wkt, 47 overs)	115

M J Slater, K J Barnett, M E Cassar, *D G Cork, †K M Krikken, P A J DeFreitas, P Aldred and K J Dean to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-78.

BOWLING: Bowen 15-4-27-1; Wharf 6-1-28-0; Evans 10-4-21-0; Tolley 8-3-19-0; Gallian 8-3-21-0.

Bonus points: Derbyshire 4 Nottinghamshire 0.

Umpires: J C Balderstone and M J Harris

Gloucestershire v Glamorgan

BRISTOL (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss): Glamorgan have scored 204 for seven wickets against Gloucestershire

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James c Russell b Lewis	27
A W Evans c Wright b Alleyne	27
A Dale not out	59
M P Maynard lbw b Walsh	9
*P A Cottey lbw b Alleyne	15
G P Butcher run out Hancock	23
R D B Croft c Hancock b Lewis	4
A D Shaw lbw b Lewis	4
S D Thomas not out	12
Extras (lb 8, w 4, nb 14)	24
Total (7 wkts, 67 overs)	204

S L Watkin and D A Cosker to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-64, 2-64, 3-94, 4-123, 5-160, 6-166, 7-203

BOWLING: Walsh 15-2-49-1; Smith 17-3-58-0, Lewis 19-6-52-3, Alleyne 14-6-35-2; Ball 2-0-6-0

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: N J. Trainor, R J Cunliffe, T H C Hancock, A J Wright, *M W Alleyne, R I Dawson, †R C Russell, M C J Ball, J Lewis, A M Smith, C A Walsh.

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 3 Glamorgan 1

Umpires: V A Holder and N T Plews.

Sussex v Lancashire

HOVE (first day of four; Sussex won toss): Lancashire have scored 23 for one wicket against Sussex

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

N T Wood not out	11
M A Atherton lbw b Lewry	0
*J P Crawley not out	8
Extras (lb 2, nb 2)	4
Total (1 wkt, 21.2 overs)	23

N H Fairbrother, G D Lloyd, A Flintoff, †W K Hegg, I D Austin, P J Martin, G Chapple and G Keedy to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-5

BOWLING: Lewry 5.2-3-10-1; Kirtley 8-6-0-0; Robinson 6-3-9-0; Martin-Jenkins 4-2-2-0.

SUSSEX: M T E Peirce, W G Khan, *C J Adams, N R Taylor, R K Rao, K Newell, †P Moores, R S C Martin-Jenkins, J D Lewry, R J Kirtley, M A Robinson.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and D R Shepherd.

Warwickshire v Durham

EDGBASTON (first day of four; Durham won toss): Durham, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 319 runs behind Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

D P Ostler b Betts	0
N V Knight b Wood	8
*B C Lara c Speight b Wood	0
D L Hemp c Lewis b Phillips	52
T L Penney b Betts	35
D R Brown c Speight b Harmison	32
N M K Smith b Betts	113
†T Frost c Phillips b Harmison	21
M D Edmond c and b Betts	32
E S H Giddins c Morris b Betts	7
D A Allree not out	2
Extras (lb 7, lb 13, w 8, nb 8)	36
Total (76.2 overs)	336

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-7, 3-24, 4-115, 5-115, 6-247, 7-277, 8-322, 9-329

BOWLING: Betts 17.2-2-66-5; Wood 17-2-65-2; Harmison 19-4-76-2, Collingwood 8-1-33-0; Phillips 15-2-76-1.

DURHAM: First Innings

J J B Lewis b Giddins	0
M A Roseberry not out	1
J E Morris not out	14
Extras (b 2)	2
Total (1 wkt, 6 overs)	17

*D C Boon, N J Speak, †M P Speight, P D Collingwood, M M Betts, J Wood, N C Phillips and S J Harmison to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-0

BOWLING: Giddins 3-0-13-1; Brown 3-1-2-0.

Bonus points: Warwickshire 3 Durham 4

Umpires: K E Palmer and A G T Whitehead

Worcestershire v Essex

WORCESTER (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 208 runs behind Essex

ESSEX: First Innings

*P J Prichard c Rhodes b Sheriyar	14
D D J Robinson lbw b Sheriyar	0
N Hussain c Rhodes b Sheriyar	68
S G Law c Hick b Newport	45
R C Irani b Lampitt	41
A P Grayson lbw b Newport	53
†R J Rollins lbw b Illingworth	8
D R Law c Leatherdale b Illingworth	1
M C Ilott b Sheriyar	4
A P Cowan b Illingworth	2
P M Such not out	0
Extras (lb 9, nb 12)	21
Total (76.2 overs)	257

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-15, 3-128, 4-150, 5-210, 6-243, 7-251, 8-253, 9-255

BOWLING: Newport 19-6-52-2; Sheriyar 18.2-3-60-4; Lampitt 15-1-68-1, Haynes 5-0-26-0; Leatherdale 3-1-16-0, Illingworth 16-7-28-3

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

W P C Weston not out	20
V S Solanki lbw b Ilott	8
*G A Hick not out	15
Extras (lb 4, w 2, nb 2)	8
Total (1 wkt, 14 overs)	49

G R Haynes, D A Leatherdale, A Habeeb, S R Lampitt, †S J Rhodes, A Sheriyar, R K Illingworth and P J Newport to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-11

BOWLING: Ilott 7-2-20-1; Cowan 5-0-23-0; Irani 1-0-1-0, Such 1-0-1-0

Bonus points: Worcestershire 4 Essex 2.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and J F Steele

Yorkshire v Somerset

HEADINGLEY (first day of four; Somerset won toss): Yorkshire have scored 253 for seven wickets against Somerset

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

A McGrath lbw b Rose	0
M P Vaughan b Trescothick	46
*D Byas c Turner b Rose	101
M J Wood lbw b Parsons	52
C White c Turner b Trescothick	23
B Parkar c Harden b Trescothick	12
R D Stemp c Turner b Trescothick	0
†R J Blakey not out	0
D Gough not out	1
Extras (lb 4, w 2, nb 12)	18
Total (7 wkts, 104 overs)	253

C E W Silverwood and P M Hutchison to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-82, 3-212, 4-226, 5-250, 6-252, 7-253.

BOWLING: Caddick 24-4-69-0; Rose 20 2-10-34-2; Parsons 18-9-30-1; Shine 12 4-4-37-0; Pierson 15-3-33-0; Trescothick 14-5-47-4.

SOMERSET: *P D Bowler, R J Harden, M E Trescothick, S C Ecclestone, G D Rose, †R J Turner, K A Parsons, A R Caddick, P C L Holloway, A R K Pierson, K J Shine.

Bonus points: Yorkshire 2 Somerset 3

Umpires: A Clarkson and B Leadbeater.

NO PLAY YESTERDAY: Canterbury (first day of four): Kent v Middlesex. The Oval (first day of four): Surrey v Northamptonshire.

University matches

Cambridge University v Leicestershire

FENNER'S (first day of three; Cambridge University won toss): Leicestershire have scored 24 for one wicket against Cambridge University

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells not out	10
D L Maddy b Lowe	7
I J Sutcliffe not out	7
Extras (lb 2, lb 3)	5
Total (1 wkt)	29

*J J Whitaker, B F Smith, A Habib, C C Lewis, †P A Nixon, J Ormond, T J Mason and M T Brimson to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-5

BOWLING: Lowe 8-4-10-1, Schaffer 7.3-3-9-0.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: J P Pyemont, E T Smith, Q J Hughes, *A Singh, W J House, G R Lovendge, I Mohammad, †M J Birks, P J Moffatt, J P Lowe, P A Schaffer.

Umpires: H D Bird and A A Jones

Oxford University v Hampshire

THE PARKS (first day of three: Oxford University won toss): Hampshire have scored 352 for four wickets against Oxford University

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

G W White c and b Mather	15
J S Laney c Mather b Garland	150
*R A Smith c Byrne b Wagh	4
M Keech b Eadie	70
W S Kendall not out	6
J P Stephenson not out	4
Extras (lb 2, lb 7, w 6)	15
Total (4 wkts)	364

S D Udal, †A N Aymes, S J Renshaw, P Hartley and C A Connor to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-195, 2-213, 3-334, 4-352

BOWLING: Mather 27-6-72-1; Garland 64-48-1; Eadie 24.2-2-78-1; Byrne 11-1-67-0; Cockrell 10-1-47-0; Wagh 26-4-92-1.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: D R Lockhart, J Parker, M A Wagh, B W Byrne, *J A Fulton, J A M Mollins, D J Eadie, B Buchanan, R R Garland, D P Mather, J Cockroft.

Umpires: P Willey and N A Mallender.

Triangular tournament

One-day international Pakistan v South Africa

CENTURION (Pakistan won toss): South Africa beat Pakistan by seven wickets

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Rhodes b Klusener	2
Azhar Mahmood c Cullinan b Klusener	2
Mohammad Wasim c Crookes b Donald	1
Ijaz Ahmed b Elworthy	4
Inzamam-ul-Haq run out	4
Mom Khan c Cronje b Elworthy	0
Wasim Akram b Rindel	4
Mohammad Hussain run out	4
**Rashid Latif not out	4
Abdul Razzak b Elworthy	0
Mushtaq Ahmed run out	0
Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 5, nb 1)	12
Total (41.5 overs)	45

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-25, 3-31, 4-5-95, 5-114, 7-135, 8-142, 9-142.

BOWLING: Elworthy 9-1-35-3, Klusener 7-0-27-2, Cronje 6-0-18-0, Donald 8-0-Rindel 7-0-23-1, Crookes 4-0-21-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

M J R Rindel c Rashid b Wasim	4
G Kirsten b Azhar	4
J H Kallis not out	4
D J Cullinan c Azhar b Mohammad Hussain	0
*W J Cronje not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 2, nb 3)	14
Total (3 wkts, 35.3 overs)	47

J N Rhodes, D N Crookes, L Klusener, S Boucher, S Elworthy and A A Donald did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-65, 3-116.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 8-0-31-0, Mohammad Hussain 10-1-51-1, Azhar Mahmood 5-1-19-1; Mushtaq Ahmed 10-1-31-0, Abdul Razzak 2-3-0-13-0.

Man of the match: J H Kallis.

Umpires: W A Diedricks and R E Koertzen.

هكذا في الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Refs exposed by whistle-blower

DANNY BAKER



A few weeks ago I raised the entirely reasonable idea that refereeing a professional football match may be among the easiest jobs in the world. It is only at the unprotected jungle level of pub sides and Sunday morning fixtures — where you are always one decision away from a thick ear — that running around blowing whistles for fouls, handball and such like can be looked on as in any way complicated or difficult.

The remarks resulted in one of the few times that this column has received heavy and sustained hate-mail, all of it from puffed-up refs and all of it nonsense. But, among the poison pens, I saw an unsigned letter of support. Incredibly, the note came from an official who not only agrees with me about the smoke and mirrors surrounding what referees actually do, but has gone so far as to enclose parts of the exam paper he sat.

He has supplied me with the very minutiae that gives refs rank over mere supporters. It is far, far worse than anyone imagined. The questions run on for 13 sections — some three pages long — and I really haven't seen this much padding and water-treading since the cast of *Titanic* began night-shooting. Drivel and rot right out of the top drawer. Ready for this? Because what I am about to report to you may read like a wicked smear, perfect for my own prejudices, but I swear it is absolutely true. Here comes question one from Questions on Law (Section 2):

1) What shape should the ball be?

I promise you that's what it says. "What shape should the ball be?" That trees died in order that this question may be brought before potential referees is beyond comprehension. I thought that maybe it was a trick question, that maybe the shape of a football has a definite scientific term attached, like the shape of the earth truly being an ellipsoid. But no. In answer to the question "What shape should the ball be?", my mole has simply scrawled the word "spherical" and received a large and lusty tick! He's halfway to the keys to Old Trafford! Who's recovered enough for question two?

Question 2: What material should the ball be made of?

That our man has patiently written "leather" speaks volumes for his restraint. The temptation to pen "rags", "wood" or "solid gold" must have been overwhelming.

Now you might think that the above mind-bogglers were simply a little mental tinder to ease the examinees in. But even by the bottom of the page we're only wrestling with:

Question 8: The ball is kicked out of play and bursts on a fence. What action should the referee take? Our man risks the answer: "Replace it with a similar ball." It gets another massive tick.

Here, for your amazement, are several other juicy ones, all from the legitimate exam. I have supplied both the given replies and my own more-fun-serves-them-right answers.

Q 2 (Law 4): The goalkeeper must wear colours which distinguish him from ...? **Given answer:** Outfield players and officials. (Two huge ticks). **Fun answer:** Coco Chanel.

Q 3 (Law 4): Name five compulsory items for players. **Given answer:** Shirt, shorts, socks, boots, shinpads. (Five individual ticks). **Fun answer:** Off-the-shoulder blouse, picture hat, glass shoes with goldfish in the heel, monocle and garden hoe.

Q 12 (Law 6): Is play likely on a sodden pitch with several large areas where players find themselves ankle deep in mud and over which the ball will not roll? **Given answer:** No (Tick!). **Fun answer:** Yeah, why not — take them overpaid cissies down a peg or two.

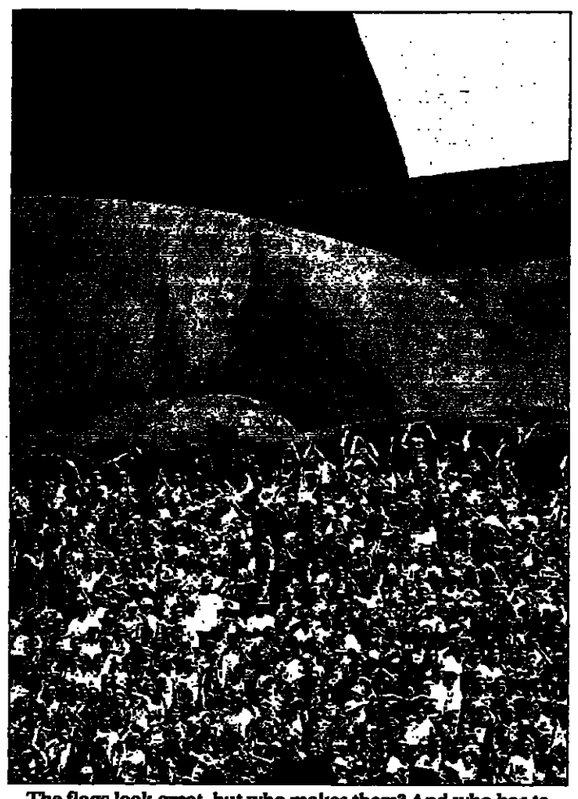
But this is too easy. The fact remains that these and many others like them largely comprise the mysterious and supposedly rigorous examining that referees endure. There's an interminable section with diagrams concerning the correct distance, ratio and circumference of various parts of the pitch. All meaningless fuss and obstructive red tape. Nobody has ever seen a game halted while the officials stick up a theodolite to certify the preciseness of the centre circle in relation to the centre spot. Similarly, despite impossibly minute attention brought to bear upon the correct weight, circumference and pressure of the (spherical) ball, we all know that refs test 'em like we all test 'em. Fingers spread and pump it with your thumbs. Feels OK? Play on!

The last word on the pointless busy-work desperation that seeps from this document's every pore can be glimpsed at the foot of the first page, concerning pitch measurement. Puffing itself up like Captain Mainwaring addressing a gathering of Home Guard top brass, it states: NB, the word "pitch" is used frequently in this paper for the sake of convenience, but does not appear in the Referee's Chart. The correct term for "pitch" is "Field of Play".

Of course it is. It's an expression nobody outside the cobwebbed, overweening world of officialdom ever uses and, therefore, perfect. So, as the saying goes, who would be a referee? Search me, although unsatisfied small businessmen with ego problems will be first for questioning. Still, thanks to my contact on the inside, at least we now know who *could* be a referee. Absolutely bloody anyone.

FACT: When Portsmouth Dockyard took on Garlow Marine in the preliminary qualifying round of the FA Vase, admission to the tie was 75p. Garlow won the match 3-0 and the official attendance was zero.

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.



The flags look great, but who makes them? And who has to fold them up afterwards? Photograph: *Stu Forster/Allsport*

Fans seeking to raise standards

During a recent ITV promotion trumpeting the World Cup, there was a fleeting shot of one of those giant flags that make their way around grounds during big internationals, chiefly in South America. For a while, these enormous rectangles surfaced at British grounds, but now seem to have gone away again.

It is one of my secret sorrows that I cannot claim to have been present at a match where a giant flag has made the rounds. Many questions that continue to gnaw and to nag nightly might have been resolved.

First, what's it like under the flag? How long does it take to pass? From what I've seen, the movement is deathly sluggish and, surely, while the sky is blotted out and you are thrust into the filtered gloom, you could feel such a fool. Imagine catching somebody's eye — a good-looking girl or a workmate who is your inferior — and there you are, frozen, arms folded, while partying arms jostle a 70-foot flyer across your static electricity-galvanised coiffeur. I suppose you'd just have to raise your eyebrows and, with facial gestures, resignedly get across the idea that: "Well, well, well. Here we all are. Under the giant flag." How awful. Social standings do not recover from such levelling.

Secondly, where do they get them from? Have you ever seen one for sale? Do people have them custom-made and make phone calls asking if "the giant flag" is ready yet?

Next, who brings the flag and how is it folded up so as to get through the turnstile? I mean, that's a lot of flag. And when, once paraded, its journey across the supporters is over, how does it get all safely gathered in again? Does its owner follow it along? If so, what happens when he wants to cross into fenced-off sections of the ground? Flag moves on, owner denied access is stuck in the cheap seats, what a nightmare. Supposing it does make it back to its rightful owner, what then? It takes two people and plenty of room to fold the duvet cover up in my house. Good luck with a 70-foot flag among 20,000 on the terrace.

As a friend of mine once remarked, as he saw three large men manoeuvring an enormous gas bottle around the back of the old Millwall ground that they might power up a horn "borrowed" from an InterCity 125: "We've come a long way from the rosette, everybody."

Sign of the times for poor Tottenham

While acknowledging that Tottenham already have enough on their doomed old plate, I must bring it to their attention that their first XI were far and away top of the league when I conducted a survey on players who have the most childish handwriting when dispensing autographs.

Having seen faxes of the signatures of Sol Campbell, Chris Armstrong, Ramon Vega and Colin Calderwood, I can vouchsafe that you will have gazed upon more mature calligraphy spray-painted on the sides of British Rail rolling stock.

There cannot be an adult in any walk of life who, as a teenager, didn't intensely work upon their autographs while dreaming of some far-off day when it would be so prized that it could be used as currency in prison. Usually, puberty, shattered dreams and the stark realisation that you might be called upon actually to repeat this creation on cheques and birthday cards sees the thing settle into a more mundane and manageable shape, with some sort of flourish usually retained in bittersweet witness of A Life Unrealised.

However, the boys at White Hart Lane seem to have missed all that. Their autographs are gauche, naive and dreadfully unexciting. They smack of concentrated effort, of tongues sticking out the sides of mouths, of unfamiliarity with modern writing tools. This style reaches its staggering apotheosis in Darren Anderton. For in the only example of pure, unretouched Anderton I have been supplied with ... none of the letters are joined up. Naturally, there is a suggestion here of dirty tricks, and we are all aware of Christian Gross's alleged indifference towards Darren as a performer. But the idea that he would stoop to flooding the market with forged signatures designed to embarrass the fit-again midfield player is a very grave accusation indeed.

An almost identical effort is produced by Jason Dozzell, who, while not strictly a Spurs player anymore, is still cast o'er with the pale shadow of a cockerelled shirt in most minds. Jason's may, if anything, be worse, because his "Z" looks awfully like an "S", leading to the unthinkable conclusion that he cannot spell his own name. In these days of high-price transfers, any player who fails to deliver might conceivably be sent packing on a technicality, ie, we thought we were getting Jason Dozzell, and you've plainly fobbed us off with this Jason Dossell — we want our cash back.

If anyone has any examples of preposterous soccer autographs, I shall be only too glad to act as curator. As a premature act of gratitude, I cleverly draw your attention to the fact that the final goal at Leicester in midweek was given as a Parker (pen).

Gambler tries last resort

An acquaintance of mine stands to win £100,000 if Torquay United are promoted this year. He has sat on his betting slip the entire season without telling a soul. Two weeks ago, when Torquay nestled into a comfortable second place, his excitement and confidence got the better of him and he broke cover. We gasped, cooed and applauded his courage and cool foresight.

As I say, that was two weeks ago. The season is now nearly over and Torquay have suddenly reverted to the kind of team that allows people to win £100,000 if they are promoted. Unorthodox and possibly sacrilegious as it seems, my friend has requested that you remember him in your prayers in the coming month. His name is Colin and he lives in Northern Ireland. Thank you.

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker stays in contention

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN HELSINKI

JOHN WHITAKER brought the Hartwell Arena to its feet last night when, against considerable odds, he and Virtual Village Grannusch, the oldest horse in the competition, retained their leading position for the Volvo World Cup after a thrilling win in the second leg of the three-part competition.

The 43-year-old Yorkshireman, who is without his top horse, Welham, is now within sight of a third World Cup success. The third leg, for which he will again ride Grannusch, takes place tomorrow afternoon.

Whitaker's superb horsemanship, the talking point of these finals, was displayed during his two superb rounds yesterday. The 19-year-old Grannusch had looked to have an impossible task to retain his position over the huge course. Only six had gone clear out of the 38 starters when Whitaker, the last to go, entered the ring — Hugo Simon, of Austria, the defending champion, having been among those to bow out.

Grannusch, who has won more than £700,000 during his eight-year career with Whitaker, gave his supporters a nail-biting moment as he rattled fence No 5 after putting in an extra stride, but Whitaker quickly had him back in a rhythm and jumped faultlessly over the next eight fences.

In the jump-off, in which Whitaker was again last to go, Rene Tebbel and Radiator, the German winners of the Dortmund World Cup qualifier last month, set a formidable standard with a clear round in 33.68sec. Rodrigo Pessoa, on Loro Piana Baloubet du Rouet, and Lars Nieberg, on Esprit, in second and third places after the first leg, both opted for slow clear rounds rather than attempting to match Tebbel's time.

However, Whitaker was not about to settle for second place. The intrepid Grannusch responded in magnificent style. No pole rattled this time, and Whitaker completed the six-fence course in 32.59sec.

SNOOKER: DIFFICULT TO LOOK FARTHER THAN WORLD'S LEADING TRIO IN MARATHON OF THE MIND

Contented Hendry ready for record attempt

BY PHIL YATES

THE recent records of Ronnie O'Sullivan and John Higgins, allied to the propensity of Stephen Hendry to produce optimum form when it matters most, provide compelling evidence to suggest that one of the three will win the Embassy world championship this year.

Snooker's annual 17-day marathon of the mind begins this morning at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, with the formidable triumvirate occupying the top three places in the world rankings and heading all bookmakers' lists of odds on who will collect the record £220,000 first prize.

Between them, Hendry, Higgins and O'Sullivan have won eight tournaments this season, figured in 16 finals and a further five semi-finals, while earning total prize-money of £828,191. The question is which of the trio will emerge from a bottom half of the draw that also includes John Parrott, the 1991 world champion and a paragon of consistency this season?

In terms of experience, Hendry is justifiably favourite to break the modern-era record he holds with Ray Reardon and Steve Davis by capturing a seventh world title. Before losing 18-12 to Ken Doherty in the final last year, Hendry boasted a 29-match winning streak at the Crucible.

Hendry, though, has won only one of his past seven finals. The solitary addition to his tournament wins came at the Thailand Masters in Bangkok last month. "It's been my least enjoyable season, because the only thing I enjoy is winning," Hendry said. "I had months of frustration, wondering why I wasn't doing the job, but right now I couldn't be happier with my game."

Hendry retained that opinion even after losing 9-8 to Higgins in the climax to the British Open last Sunday. "When you stop hating to lose, you should pack it in — but that doesn't mean I'm not satisfied with my cueing. Anyway, I always respond to the Crucible," he said.

With the exception of defeat by Doherty and a quarter-final reverse against Steve James in 1991, Hendry has possessed an aura of invincibility when competing in the 900-seat auditorium that has been home to the championship since 1977. Burn-out was blamed for both losses suffered by Hendry at Sheffield in the Nineties. It cannot legitimately be an excuse this time. "I'm going there fresher than I've ever done," he said.



Hendry: favouritism justified

Higgins, who apart from his British Open success has also won the German Open, Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge and been runner-up in four tournaments this season, could face such problems but, at 22, should have the stamina to overcome them. His most significant handicap is a relatively poor record at the championship. He has never progressed farther than the quarter-finals and, therefore, never been exposed to the mental fatigue that can result from such concentration.

In this regard, the tales of Parrott, in 1989, and Peter Ebdon, in 1996, are cautionary. Both put so much into reaching the final that, once there, they folded. "I couldn't think straight and felt like sleeping for a week," Parrott, drubbed 18-3 by Steve Davis, said.

Blurring of focus, rather than being drained of mental energy, is the biggest potential danger for O'Sullivan. He wins frames and matches so quickly that overconfidence is a concern.

O'Sullivan has beaten Hendry on their past four meetings and won the Riley International, United Kingdom championship, Regal Scottish Open and Benson and Hedges Irish Masters this season. He tops the prize-money list with £296,580. Underpinning his success has been a newfound maturity towards both the game and the manner in which he conducts his life. In a purely tactical sense, this has manifested itself in a more patient approach. His safety play has improved, leading to an increase in break-building opportunities.

"I'm 22 now. That means I'm a man, not a kid anymore," O'Sullivan said at Goffs, after overwhelming Ken Doherty in the final of the Irish Masters. "I've come to believe that I can win at Sheffield and if I play decent, I will win there." This was not bravado, more a deeply-held conviction.

The romantics will have their own ideas. Jimmy White overcoming Hendry in the first round and lifting the trophy that has tantalisingly eluded him, or Davis, 40, beating Hendry to a seventh world title would be popular scenarios. Popular yes, plausible no.

ORDER OF PLAY: Today: 10am: K Doherty (Ire) v L Walker (Wales); A Hamilton (Eng) v D Harold (Eng) 2.30pm: J Wattana (Thai) v F O Brien (Ire), J Higgins (Scot) v J Ferguson (Eng) 7pm: Doherty v Walker, to finish A Drago (Malta) v A Burden (Eng) Tomorrow: 10am (to finish): Wattana v O'Brien; Hamilton v Harold. 2.30pm: S Davis (Eng) v S Bedford (Eng). Drago v Burden, to finish. 7pm: M Williams (Wales) v Q Hann (Aus): Higgins v Ferguson, to finish

TV TIMES: Today: BBC1: Various times in Grandstand, from 1.35pm BBC2: Live from 4.40pm, highlights from 11.30pm Tomorrow: BBC2: Live from 1pm and 8.50pm



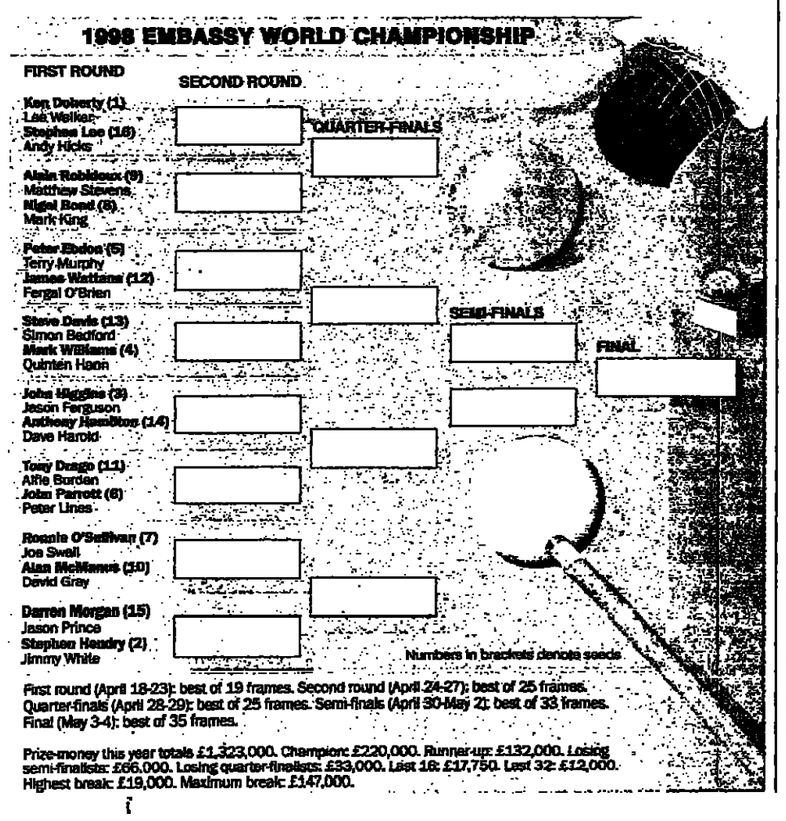
QUINTEN HANN is the first Australian to qualify for the final stages of the Embassy world championship since Eddie Charlton made his Crucible Theatre swansong in 1992 (Phil Yates writes).

The 20-year-old from Melbourne, who has climbed from No 104 to No 57 in the world rankings this season, meets Mark Williams, the Benson and Hedges Masters champion, in the first round on Sunday.

He is confident of progress, having beaten the Welshman on both of their previous meetings, but Hann has never lacked self-belief. At 13, on his first trip to Britain, he became the youngest player to compile a century break in a televised match during the junior event at the World Masters in Birmingham.

When he was 14, Hann fell foul of the amateur authorities in Australia for allegedly spitting on the mother of an opponent and was banned from tournaments for two years. It was a charge he strenuously denied, the case went to the Australian Supreme Court and the suspension was reduced to a year.

Hann enhanced his reputation as a rebel last summer by being stopped for drink-driving twice in three hours but, with the exception of a late-night fracas at the Benson and Hedges championship five months ago, his behaviour this season has been exemplary. The rebel, however, still lurks within. On a questionnaire for the television production team that will be covering the championship, Hann installed the name Alex Higgins in response to a query concerning his favourite player.



SAILING

Tricky bay worries race fleet

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

WITH the three remaining legs to be completed in just over a month, the momentum towards the finish of the Whitbread Round the World Race is picking up. This weekend sees the start of the short seventh stage, from Fort Lauderdale to Baltimore, with a transatlantic leg and the dash from La Rochelle to Southampton to follow.

The four-day passage from Fort Lauderdale to Baltimore is 870 nautical miles, the second shortest stage of the race, but no less challenging for that. Initially, the forecast predicts downwind conditions tomorrow as the fleet sets off up the coast, taking advantage of the three-knot north-flowing Gulf Stream that will dominate the early stages of the leg.

Skippers and navigators will then have to decide when to cross or leave the Stream as they turn into the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. The Bay, with its shallows, tricky wind conditions and thousands of crab and lobster pots, is a daunting prospect for the crews, who forsee an exhausting and nerve-racking final 100 miles into the finish.

Paul Cayard and the crew of *EF Language* go into the leg still firmly in control, with three leg wins under their belts and a healthy lead over second-placed *Swedish Match* of 115 points. Their rivals have already admitted that, barring disasters, they are now in a race for second overall with this short sprint again likely to suit Cayard's intense approach.

Behind him, Gunnar Krantz, skipper of *Swedish Match*, has a 16-point margin over Grant Dalton, on *Merit Cup*, who is just 23 points ahead of George Collins's *Chessie Racing*, which will be pulling out all the stops for a podium finish into her home port. Knut Frostad's *Innovation Kvaerner* is just five points farther back in fifth place, with Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, on *Silk Cut*, another 50 points adrift in sixth overall.

Toshiba, skippered by Dennis Conner, is seventh.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

'He has seen enough signs of decay. Dramatic changes will have to be made'

Looking ahead with Keane anticipation



No Premiership manager works harder than Ferguson. His knowledge of United is encyclopaedic

Alex Ferguson has not changed. He is still striving, still hungry.

Photograph: Marc Aspland

OLIVER HOLT



"My father loved the horses," Alex Ferguson is saying, smiling, "but he was bloody hopeless at them. It got to the point where my mother used to maybe put a line on on a Saturday and she would whisper to me 'find out who he's backing'.

"So I would go across and say 'fancy anything today, dad?' He'd say 'two certainties'. He always said that. He said "I'm going to slaughter them today, slaughter them'. Then he'd tell me what they were.

"I'd go and tell my mother and she would put her money on something else. She'd back two others. Then there was this day when my mother had had a yankee and the third one up came to the last fence and it was that far ahead that it was from here to Chester. Anyway, it jumps the last and it stumbles and falls. So mother goes 'blinkin hell'.

"She goes to my dad and she says 'you didn't back that by any chance did you' and he just sat there and he wouldn't answer because he was like that — none of your business sort of thing. And she just rounded on him and she said 'you're a jinx'."

If the father could not pick a winner, the son can. The horse that he has bought to relieve some of the pressures of managing Manchester United — it is called Queensland Star after a ship his father helped to build on the Clyde — won its maiden race at Newmarket on Thursday. It led from start to finish.

Horse racing is just his hobby, though. In football, Ferguson's judgment goes deeper than that, right to the core. He can sense winning in a player such as Roy Keane or Peter Schmeichel. But he can sniff out the stench of defeat, too, and in the weeks and months of this year when United have slowly let the FA Carling Premiership title drift towards the gratefully outstretched hands of Arsenal, it has begun to sicken him.

He knows that United must win their four remaining games, starting at home to Newcastle United this afternoon, if they are to have a realistic chance of warding off Arsenal's late run. But, even if they accomplish it and Ferguson guides his charges to their fifth title in six seasons, he has seen enough signs of decay to persuade him that dramatic changes will have to be made at Old Trafford this summer, that the heads of some of his shining stars will have to roll.

"There can be complacency in any football club," Ferguson said. "Success can bring that. It might not just be in one section of the club. It could be mirrored right through.

"Maybe we have got to look at our team and ask 'have we got the same hunger right through the team as we had two years ago?' You have to say that the team of two years ago or the team of '94 would not have lost any of the games we have lost this season.

"There has to be a bit of soul-searching. There are one or two individuals where you have got to say 'is the hunger the same?' It is very difficult to get it back and we will be making changes at the end of the season, changes in personnel, no matter what the outcome of the league is this season.

"People like myself and the staff and the supporters do not deserve to have it thrown away by the players like this. Not after all the work that has been done here. But the club is like a moving bus. We are not waiting at the stop for anyone who is late and I have always made that point to the players. We have to make sure that the bus goes on now. We cannot stop.

"You could have a knee-jerk reaction and say 'you're all bloody going', you know what I mean. But the sensible way to do it is to analyse the people with hunger. The ones with the hunger have absolutely no problem here. The ones who are not the same, who have a slight difference in hunger, decisions will be taken on them.

"In the position I am in now, defeat changes me a little bit. I feel losing the league this season will change me a little bit because I will want to get things done again. That is the great thing about football. It is a never-ending process. You think you have captured it and one little thing can just unship you. It is amazing."

His own hunger, of course, rages on unabated. On the morning I was there last week, his car sped through the gates at The Cliff, United's training ground, at 7.45. The next morning, still suffering from a heavy chest, he had already done a workout and had a shower by the time he went into his office at 8.00. No Premiership manager works harder.

His knowledge of United games is encyclopaedic. He could enter any of those trivia quizzes on his team and win every time. Results, substitutions, tackles, passes, goals; the images are locked away in his mind.

From this season, the 3-2 defeat away to Coventry City in late December, after United had been 2-1 up with three minutes to go, seems particularly vivid in his memory. "It was absolute suicide," he said.

But, if some of United's recent failings can be attributed to lost appetites, Ferguson also acknowledged that the absences of Keane, out since the end of September with a serious knee injury, and, more recently, of Ryan Giggs with a hamstring tear, have been crucial in stripping United of the fluency and penetration with which they took the Premiership by storm in the early part of the season.

"I think I am being realistic more than pessimistic about the title," Ferguson said. "In a situation where you become realistic you have to analyse yourself and analyse your team and there is no doubt that we have been caught short in lack of quality in terms of the pool of players that we have.

"The possibility of the loss of Giggs is something we should have done something about at the start of the season. We thought about getting a left-sided player. We tried to buy Blomqvist from AC Milan, they wouldn't sell him but they put him on loan to Parma and they eventually sold him. We should have pushed that through, which would have given us more protection.

"Instead, we had an imbalance when Giggs eventually went. The problem for me is that, when my 11 best players are fit, it is hard for me to go and take two good players who are the same quality as them.

"In the case of Blomqvist, you thought he was one that had a chance of being able to play at this club in terms of ability and certain things he has. But, if you take him out of the equation, where else do you get left-sided players that would at a push fill in for Giggs or allow me to play Giggs in another role? Still, there is no question, we should have done something.

"With Keane, people say 'you have done great, you have not missed Keane'. But the games we have lost this season, we would never have lost them if Keane had been playing. Unfortunately he is not here but, if he had been on the field, I think there would have been something different about the place.

"I think there would have been a few angry dressing-rooms at half-time, you know. I think there has been a lack of leadership because of the youthfulness of the team and because some of the foreign players are not used to our type of football."

Defeat and loss, though, will only make Ferguson come back stronger. There is an air about him already of a man who can hardly wait to put things right, who is rushing towards the future with keen anticipation. Others may sate themselves with honours, but Ferguson and his ilk press ever onwards.

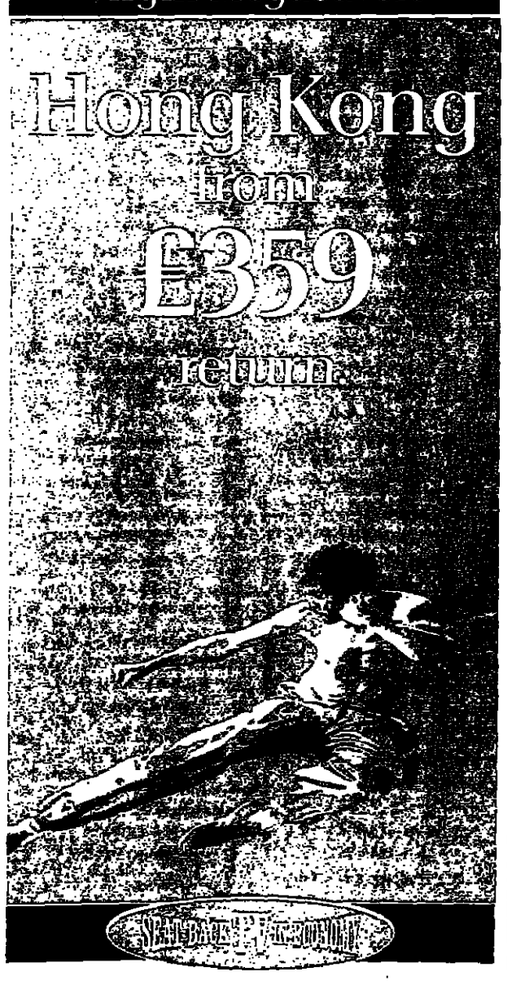
"I have seen success change people overnight and it is not nice," he said. "Big-time charlies, arrogance. They have no time for their roots. That, to me, is the unacceptable face of football. What I think is the humbling part of football is where you go to games and you see the same managers there all the time and they have been in it for 20-odd years.

"John Rudge, Dave Bassett and David Pleat. You hold your hand up because they love it, they are in it seriously. They never change. They are still striving for the end of the rainbow. There are people who do not forget their roots."

Ferguson has not forgotten, either. Queensland Star is testimony to that. Success has not changed him or dulled his appetite. He is still striving, still hungry.

'The supporters do not deserve to have it thrown away like this'

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Living chronicle renowned for letting others have final word

LIFE AT THE TOP

BARNSLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Fast legs and a keen heart were not quite enough: Colin Smallman and Wilf Lingard knew as much. Out in front was Benny Hill, small and skinny and determined to win. *The Barnsley Chronicle* duly recorded the moment: Darfield Council School. Obstacle Race (Senior Boys) 1 B Hill 2 C Smallman 3 W Lingard.

The tiny cutting has turned from white to ochre during the 57 years it has remained in the scrapbook. Only Hill would have cared enough to cut and mount the news item. This is a man with an obsessive, compulsive personality, the king of anoraks.

Puff of the pipe, sideways smile. Hill, tha knows, can tell you anything you need to know about Barnsley Football Club. And some more. He has kept meticulous details about every game played since the 1938-39 season and has at least one newspaper report on every Barnsley match since 1953. "My mother used to say I was born with a pen in my hand. It's the way I am, an organiser," he says.

Despite his love of minutiae, Hill is hardly the austere bureaucrat. The eyes twinkle behind his glasses and once he sets upon a tale, it will be peppered with humour, ripe language and blunt opinion.

After Barnsley's fraught match against Liverpool three weeks ago, the tension in the press room was unbearable. Danny Wilson entered and the press corps stared down nervously at the floor. Suddenly, Hill spoke everyone's thoughts. "That referee [Gary Willard], what a pillock, eh Danny?" Wilson — three of his players sent off, team defeated, fans going berserk — broke into a pirate smile. The anxiety left the room, life went on.

Hill is granted access to press facilities as a thank you for the column, *Stop Press*, which has appeared in Barnsley's match programme since 1974. The column is a 400-word bulletin from a journalist specially invited to write a piece by Hill. By the end of this season more than 300 writers will have contributed 250,000 words of copy — none of them paid. "Aye, they've all done it for nowt, and in all that time only two have asked for payment. I'm mentioning no names though," he says.

The list of contributors is a who's who of British sports journalism, from John Motson to Brough Scott, Jimmy Armfield to Jon Champion. One notable omission has been Barnsley's most famous son of the pen, Michael Parkinson. "I'll get that bugger to do me a piece one day," Hill says.

Journalists are willing to offer their services free in response to Hill's unwavering enthusiasm and also because he is "one of them". He is a former sports editor of the now-defunct *Sheffield Morning Telegraph* and covered his first Barnsley match in October 1948. By 1974 he had filed copy from all 92 grounds of the Football League.

If he possesses a rich personality, it is equalled by a certain frank doctrine, bombast tempered with good humour. "Players who don't shave get my goat. I don't like these lazy buggers who will not shave. West Ham used to come to Oakwell looking really smart. They might have looked like London spivs, but that's another story. Anyway, they came here at the start of the season and they looked like a set of bloody gardeners."

Modern coaches that overcomplicate football are next in line. "It's a simple, dramatic game. We don't want to see players like McManaman running back and tackling people in the right-back position. Players should be able to say what they are, defender, midfielder or attacker," he says.

The eyes burnish some more as he talks of journalism and "my lads", the term he uses for colleagues that have graduated from local papers to national eminence. "John Motson was one of mine. He was as green as a bloody fresh apple when I knew him, but he listened and wanted to learn."

He concedes that Barnsley's survival prospects are "looking grim" but he has not yet abandoned hope. "I ain't giving up yet. I know we're hanging by a thread, but I ain't giving up."

Although he has a *gratis* press box seat, it is only on a timeshare basis. When he sits down in seat E8 against Tottenham Hotspur today, he will first have to wipe away a significant amount of bird droppings. "There's this bloody pigeon and it's always sitting above the seat dropping its load onto it. It's getting to something when the bloody pigeons are getting nervous as well."

JUSTIN SLEE / GUARDIAN



Hill has kept records of every game since before the war

MARK HODKINSON

Chapple on path full of promise

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

ALL paths lead to Gander Green Lane for Kingstonian in the next week. Today the Ryman League leaders travel to play Sutton United in a match that could all but seal promotion to the Vauxhall Conference. On Wednesday they return to play the Surrey Senior Cup final against Woking, a match rich in emotion for Geoff Chapple, the Kingstonian manager, who for 13 years was in charge at Woking.

Winning the League would, Chapple said, "rank very, very high — up there with the Trophy finals and the Cup-tie at Everton with Woking. To achieve that in my first season would be tremendous. The board here didn't put me under any pressure. They didn't expect me to win the League straight away.

"The season has exceeded all my expectations. We lost on December 28 at Dulwich, then went 18 matches unbeaten until we played Yeading a week ago last Saturday. The players have done magnificently, and we are now in a great position to go on and win it, but there's still a little bit more to do".

Kingstonian meet Sutton on a pitch that suffers the ravages of winter more than most — "the Surrey Senior Cup final should be at Woking," Chapple said. "It's the best playing surface in Surrey" — just as the one-time leaders are rediscovering their touch.

Sutton had been blazing a path towards the title through December and January into February when their form slumped. John Rains, the manager, said: "Unfortunately, I can't put it down to any particular thing. When we were on our good run, we had nine or ten players playing consistently well. All of a sudden it was totally reversed: nine or ten players were well below par, confidence went down the pan and we went on to have a disastrous run."

New blood in the shape of Junior Haynes, from Hayes, Mark Watson, returning to Sutton via West Ham United, Bournemouth and Welling United, and Azeez Akinbola, from St Albans, helped to lift the squad. A 5-1 win at Carshalton Athletic on Monday followed a 2-2 draw at Boreham Wood on Saturday.

"We haven't given up," Rains said. "We've got to win our remaining games and it would give us a glimmer of hope — or more probably it would give Boreham Wood a glimmer of hope."

Boreham Wood's hopes are threatened by a fixture burden that is a legacy of cup successes that leaves them with seven league matches in the final fortnight. "If Boreham Wood come through that to win the title, they'll have deserved it," Chapple said.

THE RUN-IN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingstonian	38	23	10	5	76	31	79
Sutton United	39	21	10	8	78	52	73
Boreham Wood	35	20	9	6	71	34	69

REMAINING FIXTURES: Kingstonian: Tomorrow: Sutton United (a) Apr 25: Heybridge Swifts (h) Apr 27: Oxford City (a) May 2: Purfleet (a) Sutton United: Tomorrow: Kingstonian (h), Apr 25: Basingstoke (a), May 2: Bromley (h). Boreham Wood: Tomorrow: Dulwich Hamlet (a) Apr 21: St Albans (a) Apr 25: Heybridge Swifts (h) Apr 25: Hendon (a) Apr 28: Aylesbury United (h), Apr 30: Chesham United (a), May 2: Gravesend and Northfleet (a)

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Celtic must put recent history out of mind

By Kevin McCarra

SO FAR as the Bell's Scottish League premier division table is concerned, the past has been abolished. The Old Firm may each have completed 32 fixtures, but the consequences have been insignificant. With four games still to be played, Rangers only lead Celtic by a goal difference of one. It is as if the true season is just about to begin.

So far as the minds of the players are concerned, however, it may be that all those previous efforts will have their influence. The members of the Old Firm may now occupy the same piece of territory, but it is hard not to be mindful of the routes they have taken to reach it. Celtic would have gone seven points ahead of their Glasgow rivals had they beaten Dundee United at home on March 15, but Wim Jansen's side only drew that day and they have been engaged in frittering away their advantage since then.

The sense of decline, however, has been artificially accentuated by the steep upward slope of the revival at Ibrox. The victory in the Old Firm game last Sunday that pulled Rangers level on points was the team's fourth successive win in the premier division.

The composition of the fixture list still favours Celtic, since three of their last four fixtures are at home. Just as encouragingly, three of the opponents are to be found in the bottom half of the table. That sort of mechanical analysis, however, may turn out to be an irrelevance. The fact that Motherwell, the visitors to Celtic Park, are in seventh place will only hone their competitiveness.

They are clawing for the handhold that will allow them to cling to premier division status. The table is crammed with fear and ambition. "All of the remaining games are going to be as intense as we have ever seen," Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said. "Of the ten clubs, four or five are fighting relegation, Kilmarnock and St Johnstone are competing for a Uefa Cup place, and Hearts, Celtic and ourselves are in contention for the title. Every side has a good reason to go out looking for a win."

Rangers will seek it in a hostile arena tomorrow. Were it not for the smaller size of the crowd, the fixture with Aberdeen would be seen as the cause of greater animosity than an Old Firm game. The acrimony owes much to the fact that it was Rangers, at the end of the 1980s, who ended Aberdeen's domination of Scottish football.

This week, too, there has been emotive recollection of the damaging tackle that Neil Simpson, of Aberdeen, inflicted on Ian Durrant ten years ago. The midfield player, after several operations, recovered from his knee injury, but his career had been diminished irretrievably. Even without that episode, there would be a spontaneous intensity about the clash tomorrow. "The problem we will face at Aberdeen is the game itself, and winning it," Smith said.

Aberdeen are hovering on the edge of the relegation zone. "My players don't care who wins the League," Alex Miller, the manager at Pittodrie, said. "What interests us is getting the three points that will help us out of the situation we are in. We should not feel like second-class citizens against Rangers. The biggest factor is that we believe in ourselves."

Conviction must be summoned up elsewhere. Heart of Midlothian, four points behind the Old Firm, are at home to St Johnstone, while Hibernian, who occupy last place in the premier division, will close to within two points of Dunfermline Athletic if they are able to beat the Fife club at East End Park.

The Edinburgh club, without an away win all season, have taken only five points from 15 games on their travels. Yet confidence is high after the 2-1 victory at home to Hearts a week ago and 6,000 supporters are expected to make the short trip across the Forth Bridge today.

Alex McLeish, the Hibernian manager, said: "Our away form has been dreadful but this match can't come quickly enough for us. The players have been walking about with a spring in their step all week after beating Hearts. We've been playing well recently, although that has not always been reflected in our results."

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	32	19	9	4	71	35	66
Celtic	32	20	6	6	57	22	66
Hearts	32	18	8	6	65	40	62
St Johnstne	32	11	8	13	32	37	41
Kilmarnock	32	10	10	12	35	50	40
Dundee Utd	32	7	13	12	40	45	34
Motherwell	32	9	7	16	41	52	34
Aberdeen	32	7	11	14	33	48	32
Dunfirmlne	32	7	11	14	38	63	32
Hibernian	32	6	9	17	35	55	27



Miller: self-belief



Hughes and Zola were among Chelsea's heroes against Vicenza at Stamford Bridge. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Chelsea look to follow lead of Osgood, Hudson and Cooke

BRIAN GLANVILLE



If Chelsea win the Cup Winners' Cup a second time when they meet VfB Stuttgart in Stockholm, they will be the eighth English winners of the trophy — though there was a gap of 14 years between Chelsea's splendid success in Athens against Real Madrid in 1971 and Everton's easy triumph over Rapid Vienna in Rotterdam.

Tottenham Hotspur, in 1963, also in Rotterdam, were the first English winners. West Ham United brought the trophy back to London in 1965. Leeds United would usually have maintained the sequence in 1973 but for abominable refereeing. Manchester City, before a tiny crowd of 10,000, had won the tournament in Vienna in 1970, beating Gornik, of Poland, 2-1. Forty-five thousand, however, saw Manchester United emulate them in a rousing 2-1 victory over Barcelona in Rotterdam in 1991, during which Mark Hughes, Chelsea's hero on Thursday night, excelled.

Arsenal twice reached the final, in 1994 and 1995, beating Parma in Copenhagen but losing to a remarkable long-range, last-minute goal by the former Spurs player, Nayim, against Real Zaragoza in Paris.

The Cup Winners' Cup has always been a slightly suspect competition, initially because only a handful of European countries took their cup tournaments seriously. In England, the FA Cup may well have been the mother of all competitions. In Scotland, it mattered, too, but in Italy — though you might have thought the sudden-death romance of the cup would have engendered passions — it was for long a merely marginal pre-season affair.

In Germany, it has long been a fashion for obscure regional teams to knock out the unconcerned titans. When, long ago, I pointed all this out to Sir Stanley Rous, FA secretary and president of Fifa, the world governing body, who had encouraged the Cup-winners' tournament, he replied that one of its aims was precisely to increase interest in cup football in European countries.

This has certainly happened to some degree. Even in Italy, there is now a far more rational cup structure and greater interest, though the leading clubs still tend to see it as a secondary affair, often fielding weakened teams. It is significant that a club as modest as Vicenza should have been Italy's latest contenders.

However, just as interest and commitment was growing, what should Uefa do but pull out the rug by contentiously including second-placed clubs from the biggest European leagues in the European Cup. The field entered by Chelsea this season was substantially less distinguished than that of 1970-71. To meet and beat Real Madrid, even if it was no longer the Real of Puskas and Di Stefano, was to conquer the best.

Tottenham won the trophy in spectacular fashion. The odds seemed against them, faced by Atlético Madrid, and one of their key players, Dave Mackay, the Scotland left half, withdrew with a stomach injury. Before the match, Bill Nicholson, the Tottenham manager, gave a lugubrious team talk in which he extolled the merits of one Spanish player after another.

Danny Blanchflower, Tottenham's inspirational captain, realised he must step in and gave what might be described as a counter team talk: "They say this fellow Jones from Atlético can run. Well, our Cliff Jones can move a bit." Spurs wiped the floor with Atlético, 5-1.

Two years later, at Wembley, West Ham, captained by Bobby Moore, defeated a Munich 1860 team then still overshadowing the emerging Bayern Munich. Both goals, late on, were scored by a home-grown right winger, Alan Sealey.

Arsenal's victory over Parma owed much to the gallant goalkeeping of David Seaman, defying a Parma attack which included another future Chelsea hero, Gianfranco Zola; and to a strange error by Parma's centre back, Minotti, who hooked the ball into his own goalmouth. There, it was coolly controlled and dispatched by Alan Smith. Yesterday, Zola, who had hoped his bravura performance on Thursday would have convinced Cesare Maldini, the Italy manager, heard that he had been dropped from the squad for the match against Paraguay on Wednesday.

The Chelsea team that beat Real Madrid glittered with Peter Osgood, Alan Hudson and Charlie Cooke. In the first game, Osgood, still nursing an injury, gave Chelsea the lead, but Real subsequently had the best of it and could have won. In the replay, with Cooke resplendent and Bonetti brave in goal, Chelsea took a 2-0 lead through Dempsey and Osgood, and won 2-1.

Fans flock to see Wembley newcomers

Nick Szczepanik on a novel experience for the Auto Windscreens Shield finalists

The biggest football crowd in Britain this weekend will not be watching highly-paid internationals fighting for FA Carling Premiership honours. Instead, more than 60,000 will see AFC Bournemouth take on Grimsby Town tomorrow lunchtime in the Wembley final of the Auto Windscreens Shield, the knockout competition for Nationwide League second and third division teams.

For both clubs, it is an overdue debut at football's most famous venue, leaving only 11 of the 92 English league clubs yet to play beneath the twin towers. Indeed, Grimsby, after 120 years without a Wembley appearance, could make it twice in one season; they are virtually certain to take part in the second division play-offs, in which semi-final victory would guarantee a return trip.

At the turn of the year, they were the form team of their division, with Alan Buckley voted Manager of the Month for December, and they even threatened to make a serious challenge for automatic promotion; but their league performances in the second half of the season have been patchy. Their cup form, however, which saw them eliminate Leicester City and Sheffield Wednesday from the Coca-Cola cup, has been excellent.

They also have players with Wembley experience. Kingsley Black played in two League Cup finals, for Luton Town in 1989 and Nottingham Forest in 1992, both lost, while Kevin Donovan scored and won with West Bromwich Albion in the 1993 second division play-off final against Port Vale.

However, they are upstaged in the romance stakes by their opponents, Bournemouth, who tottered on the brink of bankruptcy and consequent extinction a little over a year ago. The financial reconstruction forced on the club at that time has seen them resurrected as "Europe's only community-owned football club", a term coined by Trevor Watkins, once the organiser of a trust fund aimed at safeguarding the club's future and now the club chairman. He even had the brass neck to inform the Football Association that Bournemouth would accept an InterToto Cup nomination should they win at Wembley.

Mel Machin, the manager, is looking forward to the luxury of picking a Wembley side after experiencing the uncertainties of receivership. "The receivers, in fact, did a good job and kept everyone together: there were no player sell-offs," he said. "It made the town realise what they had. We've come a long way."

The Wembley trip has increased that awareness. Bournemouth have requested more tickets, after selling out their original allocation, and hope to have as many as 37,000 supporting them; Grimsby will bring 29,000. Watkins commented, somewhat wistfully, that the 27,000 who do not normally visit Dean Court might regard fixtures with such teams as Wigan Athletic as ideal opportunities to find out who the players were in advance of the big day. Sadly, few took him up on the suggestion.

> "Grimsby are being upstaged in terms of romance"

On current form, Bournemouth, who won both their Easter matches, including a 1-0 victory over Walsall, their semi-final victims, on Tuesday evening, should be favourites. Grimsby have taken only three points from their last six games, and have Jack Lester, the forward, suspended. However, they have beaten Bournemouth twice in league games. "Wembley is a one-off", David Smith, the Grimsby winger said. "We are two footballing sides and you would think it will be an attractive game."

Whatever the result, the match will become part of one club's history that almost ended last year. "For teams like Grimsby and Bournemouth, these are games that can linger in the memory for 30 or 40 years," Watkins said. "It's a chance to put smiles on faces."

For the record, the other 11 clubs still to play at Wembley are Barnsley, Chester City, Doncaster Rovers, Exeter City, Gillingham, Hartlepool United, Hull City, Lincoln City, Rochdale, Walsall and Wrexham.

BOURNEMOUTH (possible 4-4-2) J Glass — N Young, I Cox, F Rolling, J Vincent — J Bailey, R Beardsmore, J Brissett, S Robinson — S Fletcher, M Stein
GRIMSBY TOWN (possible, 4-4-2) A Davison — J McDermott, M Lever, P Handyside, A Gallimore — K Donovan, P Groves, W Burnett, D Smith — L Nogan, S Livingstone

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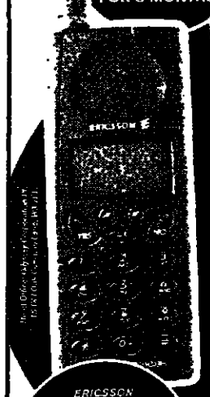
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Bassett refusing to prepare for Forest promotion party

By David Maddock

FORGET the FA Carling Premiership. The real excitement as the season draws to a close is provided by the Nationwide League first division. The tussle at the top is fascinating; at the bottom, it is almost unbearable.

There are issues that could be decided this afternoon. Nottingham Forest, should they win away to Stockport County and results elsewhere go their way, will be guaranteed promotion. If Sheffield United and Ipswich Town win and Birmingham City lose, then the scramble for play-off places will be as good as over.

Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, refused to be drawn on the subject of promotion yesterday. "I will refuse to believe it until we are mathematically certain," he said. "What is the point in getting carried away? Anyway, we have a poor record against sides from lower down in the table and I am taking nothing for granted at Stockport."

Likewise, Sunderland will not underestimate Crewe Alexandra, another of the sides promoted from the second division last season, and possibly the most skilful team in the division. Peter Reid's side, however, know that they must win their home games if they are to repel the challenge of Middlesbrough and Charlton Athletic for the second automatic promotion place.

"We have slipped up in our last two matches and we have no more chances," Reid said. "I have made it clear to my players what is at stake and they know that they have to win their remaining games to be certain of going up. It is as simple as that."

What is not so simple is the position at the foot of the division. In theory, any one of 11 clubs could still be relegated. In practice, it is likely to come down to an almighty scrap between the sides presently occupying the bottom six positions in the table.

The fixtures computer has been unkind. Four of the bottom six play promotion-chasing teams this weekend. Portsmouth have the most daunting task with a visit to Charlton, but Alan Ball, the Portsmouth manager, believes he can complete what would be a minor miracle by saving his side from relegation. "We will not go down," was his confident assertion yesterday.

In the second division, the contest for a play-off place appears most interesting, but the main news in the third division concerns one of the potential play-off challengers, Leyton Orient. They were deducted three points by the Football League yesterday, for fielding players under suspension.

An FA disciplinary committee originally deemed the offence to be an administrative matter and handed Orient a £20,000 fine. But a ruling by a Football League Commission overturned that decision and, instead, applied the points deduction. Barry Hearn, the Orient chairman, immediately lodged an appeal. "We hope the FA will endorse the first decision," he said.



Bassett: cautious

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

MANCHESTER UNITED
v
NEWCASTLE UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Rob Hughes
From his new perspective in the winners' enclosure at Newmarket races on Thursday, Alex Ferguson mused on the prospects of his Manchester United team stopping Arsenal from coming up on the rails to win the championship. "We must win our four games — and hope Arsenal drop points," he said. "Simple as that."

The odds on United beating Newcastle United today may be worth putting your shirt on, even if it is the thirteenth new design that Old Trafford has now marketed in five years. Newcastle have a poor away record and have been coming to Old Trafford for two decades without winning once in 12 visits. These days, in any case, Kenny Dalglish, Ferguson's old antagonist, travels more in fear than hope or expectation.

Ferguson knows, however, that human beings are the most unpredictable of thoroughbreds. He has to decide the state of body and mind of tired and distracted players: dare he risk Ryan Giggs's damaged hamstring? Should he trust Teddy Sheringham to show sharper form? Is David Beckham so tetchy because of threats from a stalker? Did Paul Scholes miss a hat-trick of chances against Liverpool last week simply because he missed them, or because his mind was affected by tragedy in his personal life?

A dressing-room is a complex place. Not that Newcastle can be counted upon to take advantage. Dalglish admitted on Monday that his side are sacrificing style to achieve a point, doing the necessary to save their FA Carling Premiership hides. Newcastle have scored a total of 11 goals in 14 away games and defended heavily.

Do not be surprised if Dalglish leaves out Keith Gillespie, a winger prone to losing the ball, and opts for two full backs on each flank — Steve Watson and Warren Barton on the right, Stuart Pearce and Alessandro Pistone on the left.

That may seem dour to excess because United have no true right winger, having sold three — Gillespie, Andrei Kanchelskis and Karel Poborsky. Ben Thornley could play there, but Beckham is more likely. And Giggs will probably not appear on the other wing.

Nevertheless, United must expect, at the very least, to repeat their 1-0 win at St James' Park in December . . . and keep an ear to the ground hoping that Wimbledon deny Arsenal in a similar contest of aspiration versus desperation down at Highbury.

MANCHESTER UNITED (possible, 4-3-1-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham, P Neville, N Butt — E Sheringham — O G Solskjaer, A Cole
NEWCASTLE UNITED (possible, 4-4-1-1): S Given — S Watson, N Dabizas, P Albert, S Pearce — W Barton, R Lee, D Batty, A Pistone — G Speed — A Shearer
Referee: U Rennie

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.20pm, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Manchester United to win, or surrender the title.

POPPERFOTO



Flare player: Manchester City fans mob Denis Law after his final back-heeled act in Manchester United's relegation season of 1974

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

DROPPING HINTS

Spurs fans of a nervous disposition may wish to avert their gaze from the following list — a list that proves conclusively that big clubs get relegated too.

1. Manchester United (1974)
Yes kids, it really did happen. The self-styled "most famous football club in the world" slipped into the second division for one season

2. Manchester City (1938)
Only a club with City's sense of comedy could be relegated as champions.

3. Leeds United (1982)
Just a few years after Bremner, Giles and Co had scared the life out of the Seventies, Leeds were in the second division. It took them eight years to return.

4. Wolves (1965)
The decline from the old gold glory days of the Fifties was swift and painful.

5. Aston Villa (1936)
Despite spending a fortune (this was before Doug Ellis), the most successful club in the game at that time were sent packing.

6. Everton (1951)
They flirted with relegation for a few years before the blow finally fell — sound familiar?

7. Sheffield Wednesday (1970)
They went down with a miserable 25 points and found themselves in the third division five years later.

8. Newcastle United (1934)
Just two years after they beat Arsenal in the Cup Final the Geordies slithered into the second division.

9. Liverpool (1954)
Back in the second division and not much Kop until Bill Shankly arrived.

10. Preston North End (1901)
The original "Big Club" were relegated 12 years after winning the first double.

11. Spurs (1977)
It could never happen again, could it? Well, could it?

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

ARSENAL
v
WIMBLEDON
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Matt Dickinson
Arsenal appeared to be the irresistible force as they trounced Blackburn Rovers 4-1 at Ewood Park on Monday, but today they face a team that has, at Highbury at least, proved the immovable object. Wimbledon have not lost any of their past nine games away to Arsenal and, as they proved in almost holding Manchester United at Old Trafford recently, they retain the ability to frustrate the country's finest.

Goals are proving hard to come by for Joe Kinnear's team, but they have not conceded one in the past four games and Arsenal will have to break down the barricade this afternoon. Arsène Wenger's side have lost only once in their past 24 games so it is difficult to see them slipping up spectacularly today.

"The problem, of course, is that we were on a high at Blackburn," Wenger said. "It is my job to convince everyone that we will have to work hard and battle against Wimbledon. If we are not prepared mentally, we will be disappointed. The championship is in our hands, but it is so fragile and we must not lose our way."

Ian Wright is still not fit and Matthew Upson is likely to have to deputise in central defence in the absence of Martin Keown. Steve Bould and Gilles Grimandi.

ARSENAL (probable, 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, A Adams, M Upson, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, N Anelka
WIMBLEDON (probable, 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, C Perry, A Kimble — N Ardley, C Hughes, A Roberts, M Hughes — C Leaburn, M Gayle
Referee: P Jones

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Draw.

BARNSLEY
v
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Oliver Holt
They could have done it at St James' Park last week, but they lost to the team that might as well be Alan Shearer United. Now, Barnsley have another chance to escape from the bottom three. This time, they are at Oakwell and there is no one like Shearer in the reeling Tottenham Hotspur team that they may be about to swap places with.

Tottenham's season seems to be stumbling from one crisis to another as player after player goes public on their distaste for the embattled coach, Christian Gross. Earlier in the season, it was Les Ferdinand and Darren Anderton who criticised him. Now Chris Armstrong and Allan Nielsen are disaffected and David Howells is positively seething.

Ferdinand, at least, is back at something approaching full fitness and may replace Armstrong. Anderton says that he has been fit for three games so there may be a place for him. Whoever plays, Tottenham are a notoriously brittle team and it is hard to see them flourishing on the hard turf of Oakwell.

Danny Wilson and his team know time is running out and that, with Arsenal and Manchester United still to play, they have to take opportunities like the one this afternoon. On ability, they should not be able to live with Spurs, but their team spirit has survived and, on an afternoon like this, superb though David Ginola has been this season, one would back the graft of Neil Redfearn against his Gallic flair every time.

Spurs were knocked out of the FA Cup at Oakwell this season and if Barnsley can overcome the suspensions that have weakened them, it is likely to be another black day for North London's finest underachievers.

BARNSLEY (probable, 3-5-2): D Watson — A Moses, A de Zeeuw, S Jones — D Sheridan, E Tinkler, N Redfearn, M Bullock, A Krizan — A Ward, J Hendrie
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable, 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, S Campbell, R Vega, J Edinburgh — R Fox, N Berti, D Ginola, A Nielsen — L Ferdinand, J Klinsmann
Referee: M Bodenham

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Barnsley to win.

BOLTON WANDERERS
v
LEEDS UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Richard Hobson
The unsteady progress of Bolton Wanderers recalls the issue of the frog trying to get out of the well. Taking alternately two steps forward and slipping one back, does the frog emerge before its deadline?

Bolton put a decent run together, with ten points in five games, only to suffer a 4-0 defeat at Derby County on Easter Monday. A temporary blip, perhaps, but points for Tottenham Hotspur, Everton and Newcastle United mean they are trying to recover lost ground today.

Colin Todd, the manager, is likely to recall Bergsson and Phillips today. Branagan, Fish, Taylor and Cox face fitness tests on an assortment of ailments. It will be the ninth game to sell out at the Reebok Stadium, where the tally of dismissals now totals a grisly 11.

Leeds United remain handily positioned for a place in the Uefa Cup. Reports that Danny Cadamarteri, the teenage Everton striker, is on his way to Elland Road in the summer, have been denied, but a replacement for the departing Wallace is a priority.

Kewell, a left back in the youth team just 12 months ago, will partner Hasselbaink up front and Radebe is close to recovery from a bruised knee. Ribeiro, however, has a groin operation next week.

BOLTON WANDERERS (possible, 3-5-2): K Branagan — A Todd, M Fish, G Bergsson — N Cox, P Frandsen, J Sheridan, A Thompson, J Phillips — R Taylor, N Blake
LEEDS UNITED (possible, 3-5-2): N Martyn — D Wetherall, R Molenaar, M Hiden — G Kelly, G Halle, I Radebe, L Bowyer, I Harte — J F Hasselbaink, H Kewell
Referee: J Winter

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Draw.

EVERTON
v
LEICESTER CITY
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



David Maddock
There is a sense of relief around Goodison Park after the victory last Saturday over Leeds United. "It was a massive win for us. We are not safe yet, but that has given us some breathing space," Howard Kendall, the manager, said.

Everton should not go down, but they need at least one more win to feel safe. Their run-in is easily the most comfortable of those clubs still looking over their shoulder at the foot of the division. Leicester City, Sheffield Wednesday and Coventry City at home — three points are eminently obtainable from those.

The visit of Leicester probably presents the most difficult match of the three. They are still in the hunt for a Uefa Cup place, although the midweek draw against Southampton did not help. They are four points behind Derby County and need a win.

The return of Steve Walsh, after a month-long groin injury, helps, as does the presence of Ian Marshall, a former Everton player, after injury. Spencer Prior is injured. Kendall has the luxury of picking from almost a full squad, with only Danny Cadamarteri and Nick Barmby missing, both through injury. John Spencer is likely to continue his partnership with Duncan Ferguson, leaving Mickael Madar on the bench once more.

EVERTON (probable, 5-3-2): T Myhre — J O'Kane, C Short, S Bilic, C Tiler, M Ball — G McCann, D Hutchison, P Beagrie — J Spencer, D Ferguson
LEICESTER CITY (probable, 5-3-2): K Keller — R Ullathorne, S Walsh, I Marshall, J Watts, S Guppy — R Savage, N Lennon, G Fenton — E Heskey, A Cottee
Referee: S Lodge

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Away win.

SOUTHAMPTON
v
ASTON VILLA
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Keith Pike
Three weeks to go and, for only the second time this decade, no relegation dogfight at The Dell . . . Southampton fans must be suffering from withdrawal symptoms. Still, the match against Aston Villa is a sell-out as David Jones attempts to push his team to their best finish in the Premiership.

Southampton's highest Premiership points tally of 54 was set three years ago under Alan Ball, before the division was reduced to 20 clubs and, with only four games to go, they will do well to exceed that mark. With Matthew Le Tissier hoping to progress from the England B squad to World Cup contention, though, anything is possible. He was involved in all three Southampton goals against Leicester City in midweek — as well as Leicester's injury-time penalty equaliser — and Jones said yesterday: "He has to grab the opportunity".

Southampton will be without Davies and Hughes, both injured, and the suspended Lundekvam against a rejuvenated Villa side that has won six of its seven Premiership matches under John Gregory. Talent-spotters should not take their eyes off Lee Hendrie, 20, a workaholic midfield player with an eye for goal. No wonder Gregory is trying to sign him on a new seven-year contract.

SOUTHAMPTON (possible, 4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, R Dryden, F Benali — C Palmer, M Oakley, J Beresford — M Le Tissier — E Oestenstad, D Hirst
ASTON VILLA (possible, 3-4-3): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Staunton — S Grayson, I Taylor, L Hendrie, A Wright — J Joachim, D Yorke, S Milosevic
Referee: A Wilkie

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Entertaining draw.

WEST HAM UNITED
v
BLACKBURN ROVERS
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Nick Szczepanik
When these two sides met at Ewood Park in December, Blackburn Rovers were in irresistible form, while West Ham United were Supermen at Upton Park, if Clark Kents away from home. Now, both teams are performing indifferently, but there is still more history, plot and subtext in this fixture than in anything you might catch farther up the Thames at Shakespeare's restored Globe.

The clubs' three meetings so far this season have featured a couple of red cards (Kevin Gallacher struck Eyal Berkovic, Steve Lomas pushed a referee); accusations, strongly denied, of racist abuse and Blackburn's elimination from the FA Cup on penalties. Add to that John Hartson's farewell appearance of the season today — the result of suspension after his dismissal last week against Derby County — the continued omission of Chris Sutton from the England scene and the hopes both clubs entertain of stumbling into Europe, and you could have quite an occasion.

Trevor Sinclair is available again for West Ham, although Stan Lazaridis is doubtful. Sutton and Damien Duff are expected to return as Rovers attempt to end a three-game losing streak.

WEST HAM UNITED (probable, 3-4-1-2): B Lama — J Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — A Impey, S Lomas, F Lampard, S Lazaridis — E Berkovic — J Hartson, T Sinclair
BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable, 4-4-2): A Fettis — J Kenna, C Hendry, S Henchoz, P Valery — G Flitcroft, T Sherwood, W McKinlay, D Duff — C Sutton, K Gallacher
Referee: P Durkin

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: West Ham back to winning ways.

CHELSEA
v
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
Tomorrow, 3.0 (sold out)



Matt Dickinson
Gianluca Vialli said one of his first jobs as player-manager of Chelsea would be to bring some consistency and stability. It remains the year of living dangerously for the West London side, however, as they proved with the thrilling Cup Winners' Cup victory over Vicenza on Thursday.

Amid all the deserved acclaim for their spirited fightback, the familiar weaknesses at the back have been ignored. The truth is that they rode their luck at Stamford Bridge and Vialli will know it. The problem is not just among the rearguard, and Chelsea will surely attempt to sign a top-class defensive midfield player this summer.

Still, their success as the only English club left in Europe should be celebrated and they can be forgiven a half-hearted approach to the game tomorrow against Sheffield Wednesday, who are also likely to be going through the motions.

Gustavo Poyet, who came through the game on Thursday so admirably on his full comeback from a cruciate ligament operation, is likely to be rested by Vialli, who will probably make five or six changes. Peter Atherton returns from suspension for Ron Atkinson's side.

CHELSEA (probable, 4-4-2): D Khanne — S Clarke, F Leboeuf, M Duberry, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, R di Matteo, E Newton, D Wise — G Zola, T A Flo
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable, 4-4-2): K Pressman — E Barrett, D Walker, D Stefanovic, A Hinchcliffe — B Carbone, J Magilton, P Atherton, P Rudi — P di Canio, A Booth
Referee: G Willard

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: *Football Special*, Sky Sports 1 12.30am, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Both settle happily for a draw.

CRYSTAL PALACE
v
DERBY COUNTY
Today, 3.0



Peter Robinson
Their careers have run hand in hand, both have won the Italian championship with Sampdoria, they achieved the same success at Juventus and then won the European Cup. They came to England to add a little Italian flair to London clubs and became player-managers with those clubs at about the same time. Gianluca Vialli and Attilio Lombardo, brothers in arms.

Of course, their careers are beginning to diverge now. Vialli is the king of Stamford Bridge, he has won the Coca-Cola Cup already and may yet win the Cup Winners' Cup; Lombardo is the king of Selhurst Park, which isn't saying very much. Crystal Palace are going down and there seems to be nothing that he or anybody else can do about it.

Today sees their latest attempt at salvaging some pride by winning a home game. They may have to do it without Fullarton, Warhurst, Rodger and Shipperley, who are all carrying injuries, but even if everybody was fit you doubt whether Palace would have the confidence to manage it. Derby County will be without Eranio and Laursen, ruled out with groin and knee injuries respectively but, although their away form is patchy, it will take a brave man to bet against them today.

CRYSTAL PALACE (possible, 4-4-2): K Miller — M Edworthy, V Ismael, H Hreidarsson, D Gordon — A Lombardo, T Bolder, S Curbishley, J Smith — M Jansen, M Padovano
DERBY COUNTY (probable, 4-3-1-2): R Hoult — R Delap, C Daily, I Stimac, C Powell — L Carsley, L Bohinen, D Powell — F Balanio — P Wanchope, D Burton
Referee: P Alcock

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Away win.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

COVENTRY CITY
v
LIVERPOOL
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)



David Powell
Last weekend, after their home defeat by Aston Villa, Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, ruled his team out of qualifying for a Uefa Cup place. "No chance," he said. However, neither his players, nor their supporters, are likely to have given up hope yet. Nevertheless, Coventry appear to need at least four victories from a difficult five-match run-in.

Chelsea's triumph in their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final on Thursday was good news for the clubs chasing the four Uefa Cup places. By winning the Cup Winners' Cup, Chelsea would release an extra Uefa Cup spot for English clubs. Liverpool seem assured of one and, presupposing a Chelsea win over VfB Stuttgart in the final in Stockholm next month, that leaves seven clubs chasing three berths.

Coventry are the least well placed and, after Liverpool, they must face Leeds United, Wimbledon, Blackburn Rovers and Everton. McManaman, ever-present this season, is doubtful with ankle trouble, the same part of the anatomy that is worrying Harkness and rules him out of selection. Riedle, recovered from a back injury, is expected to join Owen up front.

COVENTRY CITY (possible, 4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows — P Telfer, G Boateng, N Whelan, Gavin Strachan — D Dublin, D Huckerby
LIVERPOOL (possible, 4-4-2): B Friedel — R Jones, D Matteo, P Babb, S I Bjornebye — D Thompson, J Redknapp, P Ince, O Leonhardsen — K Riedle, M Owen
Referee: N Barry

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm.
■ PREDICTION: Coventry to prove Strachan wrong. Three points to take them off the rocks and back on a steady course for Europe.

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Game must not lose sight of its roots or supporters will suffer



McMANAMAN'S WORLD

With England preparing for another World Cup warm-up, one thing is certain to be even more frenetic than the actual training — the proliferation of advertisements involving the England team. I suspect that people will soon be praying for the finals to come along just to get them over with.

Football has become an increasing focus for advertising. Over the past five years, the sport has experienced an explosion in commercial activity. This World Cup undoubtedly will be the most commercial ever, with just about every significant company trying to promote its products.

I have mixed emotions about this development. Obviously, there is a self-interest. Whatever brings money into my club has to be a good thing, because the more money behind Liverpool, surely the more successful we will be. No one is going to ignore, either, the personal opportunities advertising can bring.

But there is a danger of over-commercialisation. I know that there is a feeling among genuine supporters that they are being exploited, and while many don't complain because they want to see a successful team, there is only so far they want to see it go.

I can see a situation in the not-too-distant future where football follows the route of motor racing and tennis. We have just one shirt sponsor, but surely a time will arrive when we have badges all over the arms, as in other sports, and lots of club sponsors, with one main team sponsor.

There is also the prospect of television entering pay-per-view territory and sponsorship mushrooming around that — different backers for each programme, all attempting to outdo each other. Football, though, must not lose sight of its roots. Its appeal comes largely from the spectacle created by thousands of supporters passionately believing in their team. If that bond is stretched too far — by exploiting too ruthlessly the fan-base — it will undermine the whole basis of the sport.

There is no doubting, though, that sponsorship and advertising are going to increase. Sports people have progressed into the territory of pop stars, but with healthier images, so advertising is bound to pick up on them.

With England, there will be plenty of exposure between now and July. Sponsors will want the players to appear in their adverts and there will be a certain pressure placed on us. I don't want to be involved in many adverts, but it is my duty. We do try to share it around. I am not against advertising, but a footballer has to be careful. There is the simple — and powerful — argument that too many outside interests can disrupt what you are there for, and for which we are paid handsomely.

There is also the question of your image, and respect. I have had quite a few requests that I haven't thought were the right thing for me, so I have turned them down. Other players may decide to do them, and I can guarantee that we slaughter them in the dressing room if they turn out a bit naff!

If I look at it in a selfish way, though, the right product promoted in the right way can present a good opportunity for a player. I have seen the Nike advert with the Brazil team, and, like many, I think it is brilliantly done. I'm sure that the Brazil players were happy to be involved.

I would be the same if I thought it was something I could approve of, and which was the right image. The reason you haven't seen me do too much advertising is that I haven't been asked! In truth, there hasn't been too much offered that has been right for me, and I do have a certain sense of responsibility about it.

■ **Hoddle's bonding process**

People don't seem to realise just how little time there is before the international team is into the tournament in France proper. That is why Glenn Hoddle is so keen to get all the players together next week. I don't think he will be too concerned about the match against Portugal, but he will be worried about talking to the players, and ensuring that they all understand exactly what he wants, and where he is going.

At this stage, I am sure he has got in his mind the way he wants to play, and the players he wants to use. But he still needs time to communicate that to the squad, talk to them individually, and get the preparation exactly right.

I have a bit of an ankle problem, but I have spoken to John Gorman, and told him that I will give it my best to be fit for the Portugal game. I hurt it against Manchester United and, against Crystal Palace, I was only about 80 per cent fit. I could only push off one side.

But I have played in every single game for Liverpool this season, and I don't want to start missing any now. I have rested all week, will try to train today, and that should allow me to play at Coventry City. All being well, I will play down there and be alright for the England match, which I am desperate to play in.

☐ **Arsenal not home yet**

People seem to think that Arsenal have the title in the bag, but I wouldn't be so sure just yet. They are playing brilliantly, their record is superb, and you have to fancy them to pip Manchester United, but they still have to play a lot of games.

I know from painful experience that games in hand rarely mean anything — it is not often they are converted into points. What happens is that you have to play them in such a short space of time, and at this stage of the season, that can be fatal.

Last year, Liverpool had four games in eight days, we lost the first and that put us out for the rest of them. By the end of that little spell, we had lost the league and been knocked out of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Arsenal are playing very well, and they are only a point behind United, but they have a very difficult spell when they play some tough teams — including us. I don't think anyone realises how hard it is playing so many pressure games in such a short space of time until you get there yourself. Believe me, it is difficult.

STEVE McMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME W	HOME D	HOME L	HOME F	HOME A	AWAY W	AWAY D	AWAY L	AWAY F	AWAY A	LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
1. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	34	67	+39	12	3	2	38	8	8	4	5	26	17	5-3-2	D1
2. ARSENAL (2)	32	66	+28	12	2	2	33	10	7	7	2	23	18	9-1-0	W6
3. LIVERPOOL (3)	33	58	+21	11	2	4	33	16	5	8	3	24	20	2-5-3	W1
4. CHELSEA (5)	33	54	+25	10	2	3	30	12	7	1	10	33	26	4-0-6	W1
5. LEEDS UTD (4)	34	54	+13	9	3	5	27	17	7	3	7	23	20	5-1-4	L1
6. BLACKBURN ROVERS (6)	33	51	+6	10	3	4	39	26	4	6	6	15	22	2-1-7	L3
7. DERBY COUNTY (8)	33	49	+7	11	3	3	32	14	3	4	9	16	27	4-1-5	W1
8. WEST HAM UTD (7)	33	49	+4	11	4	1	32	10	3	3	11	13	31	3-6-1	D2
9. ASTON VILLA (9)	34	48	-1	8	3	6	24	21	6	3	8	18	22	7-0-3	W4
10. LEICESTER CITY (12)	33	45	+6	5	9	3	20	15	6	3	7	22	21	4-3-3	D1
11. COVENTRY CITY (10)	33	45	0	7	7	2	23	16	4	5	8	16	23	6-3-1	D1
12. SOUTHAMPTON (11)	34	44	-4	10	1	6	27	19	3	4	10	17	29	5-1-4	D1
13. WIMBLEDON (14)	33	41	-3	5	6	7	16	19	5	5	5	15	15	4-3-3	D1
14. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (13)	34	41	-13	9	5	4	29	23	2	3	11	19	38	3-2-5	D1
15. NEWCASTLE UTD (15)	33	39	-8	7	5	6	19	19	3	4	8	12	20	2-4-4	W1
16. EVERTON (17)	34	38	-9	7	3	6	22	22	2	8	8	16	25	2-5-3	D1
17. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (16)	34	36	-18	6	7	4	20	21	3	2	12	14	31	3-4-3	D1
18. BOLTON WANDERERS (18)	34	34	-22	6	8	3	18	17	1	5	11	13	36	3-3-4	L1
19. BARNSLEY (19)	34	34	-40	7	3	6	24	30	3	1	14	12	46	4-1-5	L1
20. CRYSTAL PALACE (20)	33	26	-31	0	4	11	8	32	6	4	8	20	27	1-0-9	L3

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, second day of four. 104 overs maximum
DERBY: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire
HOVE: Sussex v Lancashire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Middlesex
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan
THE OVAL: Surrey v Northamptonshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Durham
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Essex
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Somerset

University matches
11.30, second day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Leicestershire
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Hampshire

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Reading Town; Ash v Chessington and Hook, Chipstead v Hartley Wintney; Cove v Viking Sports; Farnham v Feltham, Merstham v Godalming and Guildford; Raynes Park Vale v Cobham, Westfield v Walton Casuals.
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v North Leigh; Banbury v Bicester, Harrow Hill v Abingdon; Swindon Supermarine v Shortwood; Tuffley v Didcot
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Durham, Crook v Northallerton, Dunston Federation v Easington, Guisborough v South Shields, Morpeth v Tow Law; Murton v Seaham Red Star; Penrith v Billingham Town, RTM Newcastle v Jarrow Roofing Shildon v Bedlington Terriers; Stockton v Consett
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Lordswood, Cray v Tunbridge Wells; Corinthian v Hythe, Crockenhill v Canterbury, Deal v Slade Green; Folkestone Invicta v Greenwich, Sheppey v Herne Bay; Swanley Furness v Ramsgate, VCD v Chatham.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Brislington v Backwell, Bristol Manor Farm v Bideford, Calne v Bridgwater; Chard v Tiverton; Elmore v Chippenham; Mangotsfield Utd v Torrington, Paulton R v Barnstaple, Taunton v Melksham, Westbury v Bridport
ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Etonians v Salopians.
WELSH CUP: Semi-finals: Bangor City v Newtown (at Rhyl 2.30); Barry v Connah's Quay (at Newtown, 2.30)
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Maine Road; Chadderton v Burscough, Clitheroe v St Helens, Haslingden v Newcastle Town; Holker Old Boys v Kidsgrove, Nantwich Town v Darwen; Prescot Cables v Salford; Ramsbottom v Glossop North End; Rossendale v Vauxhall GM
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bilbrook S v Wolverhampton; Bustleholme v Westfields; Cradley Town v Lye Town; Stafford T v Kington Town; Stourport S v Malvern T; Walsall Wood v Ludlow T; Wolverhampton C v Gornal A.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town v Great Yarmouth; Clacton v Watton; Fakenham v Diss, Gorleston v Soham, Halstead v Stowmarket; Harwich and Parkeston v Warboys, Histon v Lowestoft; Newmarket v Tiptree; Woodbridge Town v Sudbury Tn; Wroxham v Felixstowe P and T.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Downton; BAT v Romsey; Bemerton Heath v Whitchurch; Christchurch v Andover; Cowes Sports v Brockenhurst; East Cowes v Aerostructures; Portsmouth v Bournemouth; Wimborne v AFC Newbury.
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v Holbeach; Buckingham v Stamford, Desborough v Long Buckby; Northampton Spencer v Boston; Spalding v Kempston; S and L Corby v St Neots; Stotfold v Mirrlees Blackstone; Yaxley v Potton
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill v Mile Oak; Hailsham v Whitehawk, Horsham YMCA v Pagham, Langney Sports v Wick, Littlehampton v Eastbourne Town, Peacehaven and Telscombe v Selsey; Pontfield v Ringmer; Redhill v Saltdean, Shoreham v Hassocks.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division
Gloucester v Bath
Harlequins v Leicester (2.0)
Northampton v Richmond
Sale v Wasps

Second division
Bedford v Exeter
Coventry v Fylde
London Scottish v Waterloo
Orrell v Rotherham
Wakefield v Blackheath
West Hartlepool v Moseley

Jewson National League
First division
Liverpool St Helens v Lydney
Morley v Rugby
Newbury v London Welsh
Rosslyn Park v Wharfedale
Worcester v Leeds (2.0)

Second division north
Walsall v Birmingham/Solihull

MIDLANDS: First division: Camp Hill v Stoke-on-Trent, Hereford v Mansfield.
TWEATSES NORTH: First division: Broughton Park v West Park Bramhope
SOUTH WEST: First division: High Wycombe v St Ives; Percance Newlyn v Matson.
TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Cheshire v Cornwall (at Twickenham) Under-21 final: Cumbria v East Midlands (12.30)

Welsh League
Premier division
Cardiff v Bridgend (2.30)
Llanelli v Pontypridd (2.30)
Neath v Swansea (6.0)
Newport v Ebbw Vale (2.30)

First division
Aberavon v Rumney (2.30)
Abertillery v Blackwood (2.30)
Bonymaen v Cross Keys (2.30)
Cardiff Inst v South Wales Police (2.30)
Dunvant v Pontypool (2.30)
Maesteg v Newbridge (2.30)
Merthyr v Caerphilly (2.30)
Treorchy v Llandovery (2.30)
SECOND DIVISION (2.30): Llanharan v Abercynon; Mountain Ash v St Peter's, Narberth v Kenfig Hill, Pyle v Ystradgynlais, Tondu v Tenby Utd; Whitland v Tredegar

Tennents Premiership
Division 3A
Grangemouth v Stewart's Melville FP

Division 3B
Glenrothes v Glasgow Southern

TENNENTS VELVET SHIELD: Semi-final: Stewartry v Berwick.

AIB League
Semi-final
Shannon v St Mary's Coll

Second division play-off, first leg
Buccaneers v Dungannon (2.30)

CLUB MATCHES: Weston-super-Mare v Gloucester Old Boys; Nottingham v Cheltenham.

WOMEN'S BREAD FOR LIFE CUP: Final: Saracens v Wasps (at Sloop memorial ground, 12.05).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30
NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam v Saddleworth, Dudley Hill v Walney Central; Egremont v Leigh Miners, Lock Lane v Beverley; Oldham St Anne's v Mayfield; Wigan St Patrick's v Heworth, Woolston v West Hull. First division: Millom v Eastmoor, Moldgreen v Shaw Cross; Oulton v Wigan St Jude's, Skirlaugh v Milford; Thornhill v Barrow Island. Second division: Crosfields v Ovenden; Dewsbury Moor v Siddal, Dodworth v Featherstone Amateur; Normanton v New Earswick.

HOCKEY

EUROPEAN CHALLENGE: France v Wales (at Southgate HC, Trent Park, 1.0). England v Scotland (at Southgate HC, 3.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser championship: Play-offs, third leg: Newcastle Eagles v London Towers (6.30). Birmingham Bullets v Derby Storm (6.30); London Leopards v Manchester Giants (6.30).

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation feather-weight championship: N Harned (Sheffield, holder) v W Vasquez (P Rico), WBO heavyweight championship: H Hide (Norwich, holder) v O Sullivan (US), WBO cruiserweight championship: C Thompson (Manchester) v C Eubank (Brighton) (at the Nynex Arena, Manchester)

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship (at The Crucible, Sheffield).

SPEEDWAY: International challenge: Newport v L'Koil (Russ) (2.30) Speedway Star Cup: Oxford v Belle Vue (7.45) Premier League Cup: Glasgow v Berwick (6.30); Newcastle v Edinburgh (6.30).

TOMORROW

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of four. 104 overs maximum
DERBY: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire
HOVE: Sussex v Lancashire

Axa League
2.0, 40 overs
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan
CANTERBURY: Kent v Middlesex
THE OVAL: Surrey v Northamptonshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Durham
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Essex
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Somerset

University match
11.30, final day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Leicestershire

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division
Bristol v London Irish (3.0)
Saracens v Newcastle (3.0)

Tennents Velvet Cup
Semi-finals
Currie v Kelso (3.0)
Glasgow Hawks v Boroughmuir (3.0)

TENNENTS VELVET BOWL: Semi-finals: Camoustie HSFP v Strathmore (3.0); Perthshire v Ross High (3.0).

TENNENTS VELVET SHIELD: Semi-final: Selkirk v Ayr (3.0)

AIB League
Semi-final
Garryowen v Young Munster (3.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League
Huddersfield v St Helens (3.30)
London v Warrington (6.35)
Salford v Hull (3.0)
Wigan v Halifax (3.0)

First division
Hunslet v Hull KR (3.30)
Keighley v Widnes (3.0)
Rochdale v Whitehaven (3.0)
Swinton v Featherstone (3.0)
Wakefield v Dewsbury (3.30)

Second division
Barrow v Batley (3.0)
Lancashire Lynx v Doncaster (3.0)
York v Workington (6.30)

HOCKEY

EUROPEAN CHALLENGE: Scotland v Wales (at Southgate HC, Trent Park, 1.0). England v France (at Southgate HC, 3.0)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Europe: Scottish Claymores v Rhein Fire (at Murrayfield, 3.0)

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship (at The Crucible, Sheffield).

SPEEDWAY: International: England Under-21 v L'Koil (Russ) (at Stoke, 7.0). Elite League: Eastbourne v Wolverhampton (7.30) Speedway Star Cup: Coventry v Oxford (7.30). Premier League Cup: Berwick v Hull (7.0).

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Pools coupon numbers in brackets
In Premiership fixtures, † denotes sold out, otherwise seats available

FA Carling Premiership
(-) † Arsenal v Wimbledon
(1) † Barnsley v Tottenham
(2) † Bolton v Leeds
(3) Crystal Palace v Derby
(4) Everton v Leicester
(-) † Manchester Utd v Newcastle
(5) † Southampton v Aston Villa
(6) † West Ham v Blackburn

Nationwide League
First division
(7) Birmingham v Swindon
(8) Charlton v Portsmouth
(9) Huddersfield v West Bromwich
(10) Ipswich v Port Vale
(11) Oxford Utd v Tranmere
(12) Sheffield Utd v Bury
(13) Stockport v Nottingham Forest
(14) Stoke v Norwich
(15) Sunderland v Crewe
(16) Wolverhampton v Reading

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts Forest	43	27	8	8	78	39	89
Sunderland	42	23	12	7	79	46	81
Charlton	43	24	9	10	77	49	81
* Middlesbro	42	24	9	9	70	39	81
Ipswich	42	19	14	9	66	40	71
Sheffield Utd	41	18	16	7	60	44	70
Birmingham	43	17	16	10	55	35	67
Wolverhampton	42	17	10	15	49	45	61
Stockport	43	17	7	19	64	64	58
Oxford Utd	43	16	9	18	58	57	57
West Bromwich	43	15	12	16	45	52	57
Bradford	43	14	14	15	44	50	56
Crewe	42	16	5	21	48	58	53
Swindon	43	14	10	19	41	63	52
Tranmere	42	13	12	17	48	50	51
Huddersfield	43	13	11	19	49	65	50
Norwich	43	12	13	18	46	67	49
Bury	43	10	19	14	41	54	49
QPR	43	10	17	16	48	59	47
Port Vale	43	12	10	21	51	60	46
* Man City	43	11	11	21	49	52	44
Portsmouth	43	11	10	22	45	61	43
Stoke	43	10	13	20	40	66	43
Reading	43	11	9	23	38	73	42

** not including last night's match*

Second division
(17) Brentford v Wigan
(18) Bristol Rovers v Luton
(-) Burnley v Fulham
(19) Chesterfield v Bristol City
(20) Gillingham v Wrexham
(21) Plymouth v Northampton
(22) Preston v Blackpool
(-) Walsall v Oldham
(23) Wycombe v Millwall
(24) York v Southend

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City	43	24	10	9	66	35	82
Watford	43	22	15	6	63	39	81
Fulham	43	20	10	13	58	38	70
Grimsby	43	18	14	11	54	35	68
Wrexham	43	17	14	12	51	49	65
Gillingham	43	18	11	14	50	46	65
Bristol Rovers	43	18	10	15	66	61	64
Northampton	43	16	16	11	48	38	64
Bournemouth	43	16	12	15	52	48	60
Chesterfield	43	15	15	13	43	43	60
Blackpool	43	16	9	18	54	63	57
Wycombe	43	13	16	14	49	52	55
Wigan	42	15	9	18	60	66	54
Preston	43	14	12	17	51	52	54
York	43	13	15	15	49	56	54
Oldham	42	13	14	15	55	51	53
Luton	43	13	14	16	54	58	53
Walsall	42	14	11	17	42	47	53
Millwall	43	14	11	18	42	52	53
Plymouth	43	12	13	18	53	64	49
Brentford	43	11	16	16	47	65	49
Burnley	42	11	12	19	47	58	45
Carlisle	43	12	8	23	54	67	44
Southend	43	11	9	23	45	73	42

Third division
(25) Barnet v Scarborough
(26) Cambridge Utd v Swansea
(27) Cardiff v Macclesfield
(28) Chester v Colchester
(29) Hull v Leyton Orient
(30) Lincoln v Peterborough
(31) Mansfield v Hartlepool
(32) Notts County v Torquay
(33) Rochdale v Exeter
(34) Rotherham v Doncaster
(35) Scunthorpe v Darlington
(36) Shrewsbury v Brighton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts County	43	27	11	5	72	32	92
Macclesfield	43	20	13	10	55	40	73
Torquay	43	20	11	12	64	53	71
Colchester	43	20	10	13	69	56	70
Scarborough	43	19	12	12	65	56	69
Barnet	43	19	12	12	59	47	69
Peterborough	43	18	12	13	62	45	66
Lincoln	42	17	14	11	51	47	65
Rotherham	43	15	15	13	60	54	60
Exeter	42	15	15	12	65	53	60
Scunthorpe	42	16	12	14	51	50	60
* Leyton Orient	42	17	11	14	56	42	58
Mansfield	43	14	16	13	60	53	58
Shrewsbury	43	15	12	16	59	59	57
Chester	43	16	9	18	54	56	57
Camb Utd	43	13	17	13	57	53	56
Hartlepool	43	11	21	11	57	51	54
Darlington	43	14	10	19	54	69	52
Rochdale	43	15	6	22	49	52	51
Swansea	43	13	10	20	48	57	49
Cardiff	43	9	22	12	47	48	49
Hull	43	9	7	27	50	79	34
Brighton	43	6	16	21	34	60	34
Doncaster	43	4	7	32	30	109	19

** Leyton Orient deducted three points*

Vauxhall Conference
(-) Cheltenham v Telford
(-) Dover v Southport
(-) Gateshead v Slough
(-) Kettering v Northwich
(-) Kidderminster v Halifax
(-) Morecambe v Stevenage
(-) Rushden and Diamonds v Leek
(-) Stalybridge v Farnborough
(-) Woking v Hednesford
(-) Yeovil v Hereford

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
(37) Celtic v Motherwell
(38) Dunfermline v Hibernian
(39) Hearts v St Johnstone
(40) Kilmarnock v Dundee Utd

First division
(41) Airdrie v Greenock Morton
(42) Dundee v Ayr
(-) Hamilton v Falkirk
(43) St Mirren v Raith
(44) Stirling v Partick

Second division
(45) East Fife v Clydebank
(46) Forfar v Queen of South
(47) Livingston v Brechin
(48) Stenhousemuir v Clyde
(49) Stranraer v Inverness CT

Third division
(-) Berwick v Queen's Park
(-) Dumbarton v Albion
(-) East Stirling v Cowdenbeath
(-) Montrose v Alloa
(-) Ross County v Arbroath

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Tamworth; Atherstone v Cambridge City; Bromsgrove v Stourbourne; Burton Albion v Merthyr; Crawley v Bath; Dorchester v Nuneaton; Forest Green v Halesowen, Gresley v Salisbury; King's Lynn v Gloucester; Rothwell v Hastings; St Leonards v Worcester City. Southern division: Baldock v Newport IoW, Bashley v Witney; Cinderford v Fleet T; Crencester Town v Chelmsford, Dartford v Newport AFC, Fareham v Margate, Fisher London v Weymouth, Havant v Yate, Trowbridge v Tonbridge Angels, Weymouth v Weston-super-Mare. Midland division: Bilston v Wisbech Town; Brackley Town v Paget R; Corby v Moor Green, Evesham v Bedworth, Grantham v RC Warwick; Ilkeston v VS Rugby, Redditch v Hinckley Utd; Solihull Boro v Stafford; Stourbridge v Blakenall; Sutton Coldfield Town v Shepshed D
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Altrincham v Leigh RMI; Bamber Bridge v Guiseley, Bishop Auckland v Emley, Blyth Spartans v Barrow; Boston v Colwyn Bay; Frickley v Runcorn; Gainsborough v Marine; Lancaster v Hyde, Winsford v Spennymoor First division: Ashton United v Lincoln United, Belper Town v Netherfield, Eastwood Town v Whitley Bay; Farsley Celtic v Gretna, Great Harwood v Harrogate Town, Matlock Town v Flixton; Stocksbridge PS v Congleton; Trafford v Workington, Whitby v Droylesden; Albion v Buxton
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chesham v Walton and Hersham; Dulwich v Boreham Wood, Enfield v Basingstoke; Grimsond and Northwest v Harrow, Hendon v Bishop's Stortford; Heybridge v Bromley, Purfleet v Hitchin, St Albans v Carshalton, Sutton United v Kingstonian; Yeading v Dagenham and Redbridge First division: Abingdon Town v Berkhamsted; Aldershot Town v Staines, Barton Rovers v Romford; Billericay v Molesey, Bognor Regis v Grays; Chertsey v Worthing, Croydon v Maidenhead; Hampton v Wembley, Leyton Pennant v Thame Utd; Uxbridge v Leatherhead, Whyteleafe v Wokingham. Second division: Braintree v Bracknell, Edgware v Banstead; Egham v Barking, Horsham v Windsor and Eton, Hungerford v Bedford T; Leighton Town v Chalfont St Peter; Marlow v Cheshunt; Northwood v Canvey Island; Tilbury v Wivenhoe; Tooting and Mitcham v Wealdstone; Witham v Met Police. Third division: Corinthian-Casuals v Hornchurch; Dorking v H Hempstead; East Thurrock v Camberley Town, Epsom and Ewell v Lewes; Racklewell Heath v Clapton; Ford Utd v Ware; Harlow v Croydon, Hertford v Wingate and Finchley; Kingsbury v Tring; Southall v Aveley.
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena v Portadown; Cliftonville v Glenavon (2.0); Coleraine v Linfield; Crusaders v Armagh; Glenavon v Ards. First division: Ballyclare v Lame, Carrick v Bangor; Dungannon Swifts v Limavady Utd, Newry v Distillery
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v UCD (7.30), Kilkenny v Derry (7.30); Sligo v Cork (7.30).
LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon v Rhyl (2.30); Cwmbran v Rhayader Town (2.30); Carmarthen v TNS (2.30); Conwy v Porthmadog (2.30). Haverfordwest v Inter Cable-Tel (2.30)
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Brook House v St Margaretsbury; Cockfosters v Brimsdown, Hanwell v Baldingside; Woodford v Haringey Boro; Ruislip Manor v Amersham, Waltham Abbey v Hillingdon Boro Premier division north: Aylesbury Town v Royston, Bedford v Harpenden, Brache Sparta v Langford; Buckingham Athletic v Biggleswade; Haddesdon v Toddington; Letchworth v Potters Bar Town; Milton Keynes v London Colney.
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Norwich (11.0). Crystal Palace v Millwall (11.0); Fulham v Charlton (11.0); Leyton Orient v Queens Park Rangers (11.0), Portsmouth v Ipswich (11.0), Tottenham v West Ham (at Chesnwell Heath, 11.0), Watford v Southend (11.0). Second division: Brentford v Oxford Utd (11.0); Swindon v Southampton (11.0), Tottenham v Brighton (11.0); Wycombe v Reading (11.0)
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch v Continental Star; Coleshill v Meir KA; Dudley Sports v Highgate, GPT (Coventry) v Southam; Kenilworth v Worcestero, Kings Health v Bolehall S, Knowle v Coventry Sphinx, Massey Ferguson v Cheslyn Hay; Studley BKL v Handsnan Timbers. Wolseburne v Bilston Community College
OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Vaughanians v Old Meadonians. Senior first division: Old Buckwellians v Phoenix OB, Old Tiffinians v Old Wilsonians
SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Civil Service v Old Parmiterians, Crouch End Vampires v South Bank, East Barnet OG v West Wickham; Norsemen v Polytechnic, Barclays Bank v Alexandra Park; NatWest Bank v Old Parkonians, Old Esthamesans v Old Salesians; Kew Association v Old Bromleians; Southgate Olympic v Old Stationers
HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Clachnacuddin v Deveronvale, Fort William v Peterhead, Fraserburgh v Wick Academy; Huntly v Elgin
INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v Bloxwich Town, Boldmere St M v Bridgnorth; Oldbury v Shifnal T; Pershore T v Pelsall V, Rocester v Halesowen H, Wednesfield v Chasetown; W Mid Police v Knypersley V; Willenhall v Iungs Norton
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Curzon Ashton v Pickering, Eccleshill v Brigg Town; Glasshoughton Welfare v Ossett Albion, Hallam v Armthorpe Welfare, Harfield Main v Sherfield; Hucknall Town v Liversedge; Maltby MW v Arnold; North Ferriby v Dunsby, Ossett Town v Pontefract Cols, Thackley v Selby.

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership
† Chelsea v Sheffield Wednesday
† Coventry v Liverpool (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division
Bradford v Queens Park Rangers

Auto Windscreens Shield
Final
Bournemouth v Grimsby (at Wembley Stadium, 1.30)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Aberdeen v Rangers (4.0)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Hinckley Utd v Solihull Boro
UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Worksop v Gretna.
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Shamrock v St Patrick's Ath (3.15)
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Odd Down v Elmore, Tiverton v Westbury; Torrington v Melksham
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Garswood St Helens v Coventry, Wolverhampton v Aston Villa. Southern division: Barry v Whitehawk Ipswich v Three Bridges

Push from Andrew helps Newcastle to take flight

David Hands meets the former England fly half trying to build a rugby dynasty in the North East

There will be a new attraction at Newcastle's remaining games this season. The team now known as the Falcons will have their own bird of prey, a falcon hired to emphasise the image that has caught on so quickly in the North East. The bird's name is Icarus, which those who believe that the clubs have taken too much upon themselves will find prophetic.

Not that Rob Andrew has any intention of flying too close to the sun. Yet, in a sport abounding with visions at the moment, Newcastle's director of rugby has his own: "At the moment I'm in phase one of what I see as the creation of a Newcastle dynasty," he said. "It's a big word, but all of us who are in these positions have to be thinking like that.

"We have the ability to do that. At the moment I'm still concerned with playing and establishing the first XV as a force to be reckoned with, firstly in England and secondly in Europe. Phase two is to create a structure within the club and within the local community which builds a huge support base. I have no doubt we can be another Newcastle United. It may be ambitious to think of 36,000 season-ticket holders, but in ten years' time, why not?"

Yes, this is the same pragmatic Rob Andrew who went from fresh-faced Cambridge freshman to cold-eyed England fly half and who gave up a thriving career in the City to become the focal point of the new professional game, a figure at times scorned, respected, envied but always destined to be a force in the English game. As long ago as 1986, Alan Jones, then Australia's coach, said: "Rob Andrew? You boys should get behind him. He's a thinker. He could be captain of England."

He was, of course, but only once in his career of 71 caps and 396 points. Now, he is a fundamental part of the new dynamic which is sweeping through the English game; the energy and intelligence which, before amateurism was lost forever, would have been thrust into a business career is now contributing towards a vibrancy that the domestic game has never known.

No wonder there has been upheaval and Andrew, 35, acknowledges that he will always be associated with that change. "Conflict was totally inevitable. Whatever else happens in the game, the Sir John Hall, Rob Andrew and therefore Newcastle thing will always be there. Others have followed but we were first through the door and some of the hierarchy will always blame Sir John and me for what has happened. We were the new kids on the block, we had money — though not more than others — and we upset the established order."

That open door has led to political strife but it has also led to the game at Watford tomorrow when Newcastle will play Saracens in front of a passionate crowd of nearly 20,000. A passionate rugby crowd at Watford? It is precisely that which gives Andrew so much pleasure.

"Sunday to me is a massive justification, a vote of confidence for what has been started," Andrew said. "If you'd said that something like this would have happened, even as little as 12 months ago, you would have been carted off to the funny farm. For 100 years, the club game was suppressed . . . two years ago it had a massive rocket up its backside and now the whole thing is settling into place.

"You have to look at what the professional clubs are. We are not like Blaydon or Morpeth, nor are we the old Gosforth or even Newcastle Gosforth dressed in new clothes. We have set ourselves up as the professional team in our catchment area but we have to work with the local rugby community at lots of levels.

"We can draw people from an hour away, from Durham and Cumbria, from Scotland and North Yorkshire. We can capitalise on our geographical isolation. I knew when I first sat down to listen to the offer to come here that we can have the Leicester, the Bath scenario at Newcastle — it was a great financial offer and there was a risk because the game may not work out. I may be on the scrapheap in five years but it only took me a minute to make up my mind because I have always known what is possible, given the right club, the right infrastructure, the right backing."

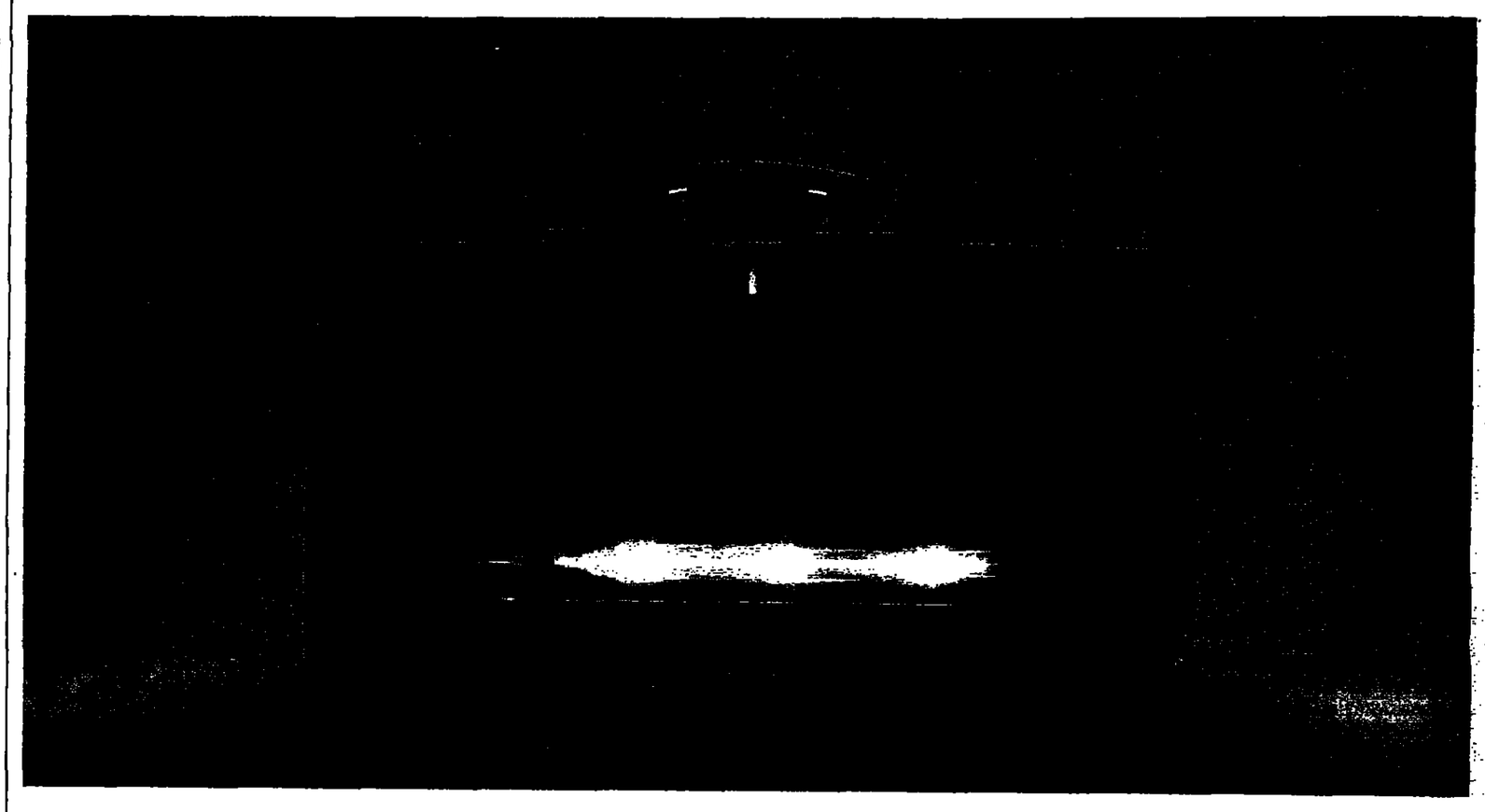
If there is a Messianic gleam in Andrew's eye, who shall blame him? Newcastle have not been short of critics during their rise to the top: those who have accused them of destroying the old club ethic, of putting all their eggs into the first-team basket and ignoring fixtures at lower levels, of abrasive, cynical play. Andrew will have none of it: he has taken time to establish firm foundations for what he perceives as a regional side.

There have been mistakes along the way, but Newcastle are not alone in that. Now they have a second XV, a development team and an under-17 side to which clubs in the area nominate their best players, in the knowledge that they will receive good coaching, good playing standards and will return better players — save those who are successful enough to be offered longer-term employment.

"There is a huge opportunity here to do something good with a rugby team," Andrew said. "People like me and Dean Ryan have been given a new lease of life, but we still have a long way to go, to grow psychologically as a team. How long will I be part of it? I don't know but the key to it is that I'm enjoying myself."



Andrew has seen the professional game at Newcastle break through many barriers



Fight for placings given new impetus

BY MARK SOUSTER

JUST when the climax to the season had been written off as a non-event, Saracens and Newcastle apart, what was considered meaningless could actually mean a great deal. With "peace" talks between the Rugby Football Union and the clubs continuing yesterday, no one can afford to assume that relegation will not be a fact of life, nor that a top-four finish in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division will not provide a gateway into Europe. While the top two and the bottom two meet tomorrow, the eight teams sandwiched between are in action today.

As European Cup holders, Bath, in third place, need not worry, but after their slim championship hopes evaporated over Easter, they travel to Kingsholm to play West Country rivals Gloucester.

Leicester, fourth, take their dismal away form to Harlequins, having dropped Austin Healey and Richard Cockerill. The curtain-raiser is the Bread for Life Women's Cup final between Saracens and Wasps.

Sale will add to the pressure on Wasps in the bottom three, should they beat the struggling Londoners at Heywood Road. Should Wasps win, Bristol would be doomed to relegation, or at best the play-offs, whatever the outcome of their match against London Irish tomorrow. Victory for the exiles and defeat for Wasps would leave the reigning champions with serious problems.

Northampton, with games in hand, play Richmond with the knowledge that Martin Bayfield, their former British Isles lock, will not play again until next season after rupturing a disc in his neck.

Paul Grayson plays for Northampton, but it was as a member of the Lancashire team that beat Cornwall in the 1992 county championship final that he first emerged.

Cornwall return to Twickenham this afternoon for the final against Cheshire. As usual they will be backed by partisan support expected to total 30,000, while Cheshire, the nucleus of whose side comes from Manchester, New Brighton and Widnes, will struggle to fill more than a handful of coaches. They will probably start slight favourites, though.

Fran Cotton has postponed the series of four meetings at which he planned to tell junior clubs how England's success could be threatened by the game's top 12 clubs. The first of these was scheduled to be held Twickenham tomorrow.

BIG MATCH STATISTICS

ATTACK

(per match)	Tries	Pens	Pts
Newcastle	4.00	1.94	30.25
Saracens	2.71	3.18	27.18

DEFENCE

Saracens	1.59	2.29	18.17
Newcastle	1.44	2.64	18.38

LEADING TRY-SCORERS: 8: J Naylor (Newcastle) 7: G Armstrong (Newcastle) R Wallace (Saracens) 6: P Lam (Newcastle) 5: F Pienaar (Saracens), N Popplewell (Newcastle), T Underwood (Newcastle)

Newcastle have scored 86 per cent of their points from tries, Saracens 64

LEADING POINTS-SCORERS: 254: M Lynagh (Saracens) 5 tries, 32 conversions, 54 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal 180: R Andrew (Newcastle) 4, 28, 27, 1

Lynagh has scored 55 per cent of his side's points, Andrew 33

DISCIPLINARY RECORDS

(cards)	yellow	white	red
Newcastle	7	1	0
Saracens	14	0	0

Most yellow cards: 4: D Crowcock (Saracens) 3: D Ryan (Newcastle) 2: P Johns (Saracens), P Wallace (Saracens), G Archer (Newcastle) White card: 1: D Ryan (Newcastle).

☐ Compiled by Stephen McCormack

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هكذا من الأصل

New frontier for club game in England

David Hands, rugby correspondent, looks forward to the league match of the season

VICARAGE Road tomorrow stages an exercise in the art of the possible. The Allied Dunbar Premiership first division meeting between Saracens and Newcastle, upon which may hang the destiny of this season's title, is an extreme example of where the club game in England may go in the future if it is nurtured and managed correctly.

At the same time, however, club administrators must bear in mind that the substantial conurbation of Bristol, where rugby has such a vibrant past, threw up a miserable crowd of 1,500 for the midweek game with Sale. The difference between that and the nearly 20,000 people who will swarm through Watford tomorrow is, of course, success.

Newcastle, whose aim on their return to first-division rugby was a place in the top four, have a two-point advantage over Saracens, their only realistic rivals for the title. It is hard to believe that they will be caught if they win, even though they have still to play Bath and Leicester, who have to visit Tyneside.

But if they lose? "The beauty of this game is that I can't tell you what the result will be," Rob Andrew, their director of rugby, said "I believe we can win. I know Saracens can beat us because they are a good side. It's not great if you're in management, but the buzz it gives everyone is fantastic for the whole game."

If Newcastle lose then they will have merely their game in hand over Saracens, which will be used up when they play Wasps on Wednesday. They will have the slimmest of advantages, they will be prey to doubts that have not informed their season so far — or, if they have, they have been well disguised. Saracens, moreover, will use the 30-25 defeat suffered at Kingston Park in March as motivation: all season Francois Pienaar has told his players that losing is not an option — a double Premiership defeat is even less of one.

"When I became involved with Saracens, I thought I was helping a local club, that the money would last four or five years," Nigel Wray, the club's owner-investor, said. "I never envisaged moving to Vicarage Road, crowds of 20,000. I had not seen that much involvement but, by definition, that's 20,000 new people interested in rugby, enjoying themselves through rugby. It's creating something worthwhile."

Since their last meeting, Saracens have reached the Tetley's Bitter Cup final, itself a source of encouragement. Newcastle will give Va'aiga Tuigamala as long as possible to recover from a strained muscle and have Richard Arnold pressing for a place in the back row.

They have been living on their nerves away from home of late — as Gloucester will testify — and have not played at Watford before. Maybe that advantage will be just enough for, as their full-throated announcer says, "the home-town boys — the Saracens".

DETAILS

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	16	15	0	1	484	294	30
Saracens	17	14	0	3	482	309	28

REMAINING FIXTURES

NEWCASTLE: Tomorrow: Saracens (a). April 22: Wasps (a). April 28: Bristol (h) May 4: Leicester (h). May 11: Bath (h) May 17: Harlequins (a)

SARACENS: Tomorrow: Newcastle (h). April 25: Leicester (a) April 28: Harlequins (a). May 3: London Irish (h). May 14: Northampton (h).

TV DETAILS: Sky Sports 2: 5.30pm, as live

DAVID HANDS ASSESSES THE TWO PIVOTAL FIGURES IN THE SARACENS V NEWCASTLE MATCH TOMORROW





DEAN RYAN

Enforcer ready to give and take hard knocks for the team good

Some call him the Colonel, others the Brigadier, which shows what his colleagues think of the former lance-corporal, Dean Ryan. In some ways, though, Ryan's Newcastle are a non-commissioned officer's team, one for efficiency, for spit and polish, where the fundamentals are done well.

It is that very application to basics that has pulled Newcastle through matches that would otherwise have been lost, a commitment to defence that is all-consuming. But Ryan, captain and developing forwards coach, also offers the popular image of Newcastle: stroppy, in your face, quick to take offence.

Those outside the North East do not love Newcastle, but they respect them. It boils down to what we want of our successful teams. We want them to win, of course we do, but we want them to be easy on the eye while doing so and we do not realise that only a handful of teams achieve both. Newcastle, in their first season of first-division rugby, have reached the top of the tree not by playing pretty rugby but by playing effective rugby.

That is Ryan all over. When you forget about the yellow cards for indiscipline, the warning lectures from referees, the exasperated shrugs, you can concentrate on the driving physical play that is his hallmark. He has not the best hands, he probably accepts contact too much but he is from the school of hard knocks.

He will give you lineout ball with complete dependability, he will scrummage, he will test the offside law, the scrum-binding law to the limit because that is what back-row forwards, time out of mind, have done. He will take punishment on the ground so that others can do the scoring, hence the wide grin which crossed his face at Northampton after a planned move worked to such perfection that he was able to canter 30 metres for a try without a hand laid on him.

Without a Ryan, players such as Gary Armstrong and Pat Lam do not operate so brilliantly. Without a Ryan, players' concentration will slip at critical times: Ryan will not let them do that. One wonders whom he frightens most, opponents or team-mates. But colleagues know he will put himself on the line for them — as at Bath, when Tim Stimpson was kicked on the ground and Ryan exacted instant retribution.

Others see him as the villain of the piece and it is hard not to sympathise with that view. Ryan himself would regard his approach as old-fashioned loyalty, from the days when rugby was not festooned with cameras and touch judges with radios in their flags and the curious code of the jungle ruled. Touch my team, he seems to say, and you will pay for it.

MICHAEL LYNAGH

Tactician with an all-round game who racks up the decisive points

Last season we looked at Michael Lynagh and wondered whether he had hung on just a fraction too long. We had forgotten, of course, that timing is a characteristic of all the best fly halves and when Lynagh calls it a day, at this season's end, he will leave us wanting more.

There are many reasons why Saracens have become so respected a club. You can have brilliant backs, but if they do not have a pack to win them possession, it matters little. Equally, forwards love to know that they have in their No 10 a player who will take them to parts of the field they most want to visit.

Lynagh does that. The Australian, at 34, may not make the twinkling breaks that he did in his pomp but he controls the game, with his judgment of the pass, with his kicking from hand and off the ground and with his defence. It is an all-court game surpassed by few and which illustrates to perfection the game that Saracens seek to play.

That they have developed a momentum this season has been helped by the knowledge that Lynagh's accurate goal-kicking will give them the points they need and by his tactical judgment. His line-kicking has not been as perfect as Lynagh, from his youth a perfectionist, would like but it is better than most of his rivals and his colleagues know with absolute certainty that, should he make a mistake, he will do everything in his power to retrieve it.

But Lynagh is not just an exemplar of the work ethic, of efficiency. He has played with Australian sides noted for their exciting offence; he can recognise a broken field in a moment and he will bring out the qualities of colleagues who can make the most of it. That Richard Wallace is flourishing again this season is no coincidence because, as a blind-side wing, he can feed off Lynagh's accuracy; that Steve Ravenscroft has advanced as a centre is because Lynagh draws from him capabilities he may not have believed he had.

Ryan Constable, his fellow Australian, is on the same attacking wavelength, all of which has allowed Saracens to offer more unorthodoxy in their play than Newcastle have shown. Lynagh's talent, is to know which weapon in his armoury to use, and when to use it.

That his is also the acceptable face of rugby is a bonus. But concealed beneath the chiselled features is an ice-cool, diamond-hard brain. Lynagh wants to win as much as the next man, even though he has a World Cup and a grand-slam tour nestling in his tuckerbag: never assume that, because a player has achieved much, he does not want more. These are the last days of Lynagh's career and he seeks to close on the highest of notes.

THE BIG CONFRONTATIONS AT VICARAGE ROAD

CENTRE

VA'AIGA TUIGAMALA: At his best a bull of a player with underrated handling skills; injury and fitness have affected his career with Newcastle and he has been over-used on the crash ball, but few English defences have ever stopped him behind the advantage line.

PHILIPPE SELLA: The fine edge of speed has gone, the hands not so sure as they were but the strength in the tackle remains. He has brought organisation to the midfield and confidence to those around him

SCRUM HALVES

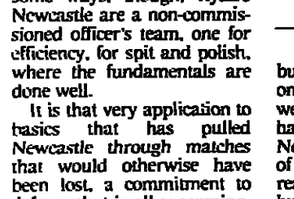
GARY ARMSTRONG: Recovered remarkably after serious injuries that, at one time, threatened his career. Has formed a dangerous partnership with Pat Lam; courageous tackler, potent threat near the line

KYRAN BRACKEN: Back to his most authoritative form this season but hindered recently by recurring shoulder injury. No better judge of a break among English players, excellent passer of the ball and a good understanding with Michael Lynagh.

FRONT ROW

NICK POPPLEWELL: Now retired from international rugby and struggling with a hamstring injury, not so evident in the loose anymore, but the tussle with his younger fellow countrymen will be one for the connoisseur

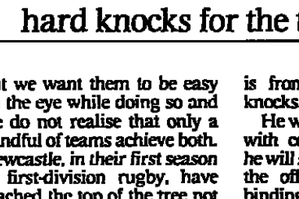
PAUL WALLACE: Within a year has become one of the best props in the world, confidence enhanced after tussles with South Africans last summer. Awkward scrummager, capable of disrupting all but the best opponents, solid tackler and happy with ball in hand.



SECOND ROW

DODDIE WEIR: Comeback story of the season after serious knee injury playing for the Lions. Outstanding in the lineout and much improved in loose play this season with rising tackle count.

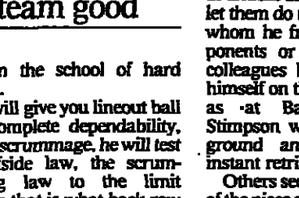
DANNY GREWCOCK: One of the most improved light forwards in England since joining from Coventry last summer. Confident in the middle of the line, a growing force in the loose. Grewcock has become more assertive with every month.



BACK ROW

PAT LAM: Like Pienaar, capable of playing across the back row, a superb athlete and ball-handler. His understanding with Armstrong has created try after try for Newcastle, his speed over the ground matched by few in the English game

FRANCOIS PIENAAR: Hard to overestimate his influence on Saracens, possibly more as coach and professional. Has helped instil the winning attitude, to make good players better while still performing on either flank himself.



CLUB OWNERS

NIGEL WRAY: Chairman of Burford Holdings. Former Hampshire wing with strong sense of the club v union issue and one of the four negotiators for the clubs charged with resolving the existing conflict.

SIR JOHN HALL: Chairman of Newcastle United Football Club. The original millionaire to take over a club after rugby union went professional, with the original vision for the promotion of sport in the North East. Strong belief that clubs should run professional game.

Saracens thrive on self-styled values

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO

Everyone believes the Saracens v Newcastle game tomorrow will decide the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division, but I don't totally go along with that. Maybe in time it will prove to have been the decisive match, but a lot of games lie ahead for both sides. It is a game that Newcastle will want to win but surely Saracens *have* to win. It's great that the game is a 20,000 sell-out, which shows that if we can produce a high-quality competition, the interest is there.

What has impressed me about Saracens is the way they have maintained the spirit that one always associated with them before professionalism. They have never lacked anything in terms of passion, but never had the environment in which to succeed in top-class rugby.

Players saw the club as a stepping stone. Even with the influx of world-class overseas players, they have not lost their core values. Players such as Lynagh, Sella and Pienaar have not allowed themselves to become the focus of attention. Class rubs off and those players have brought out the best in others who had the ability but perhaps lacked confidence, such as Steve Ravenscroft and Matt Singer, who are playing the best rugby of their lives.

So much about winning is wanting to play for each other, having the individual and collective self-belief. Both sides have that, as we did at Wasps last season; that desire to win at all costs. Ravenscroft has epitomised what Saracens are all about — talent, hard work and total commitment. He has been there a long time and deserves his success.

Newcastle's star this season has been Pat Lam, but much of his influence can be put down to the balance of their back row, with Dean Ryan, Richard Arnold and Peter Walton, guys who do the hard yards and are the catalysts for him to operate.

The key positions in a side are at hooker, No 8, scrum half, fly half and full back, and both sides have talent in those areas; guys who are tactically shrewd. Both teams have similar styles, based on aggressive, physical confrontation. They use the scrum effectively, and are smart at the lineout.

Both have big packs but have not made the mistake of playing a slow game. They have vast experience at half-back, Bracken and Lynagh at Saracens and Armstrong and Andrew for Newcastle — players who are able to make the right decisions at the right time, to be patient when things aren't going well and who know how to make things happen.

All across the field you have players who know how to win: Pienaar, a World Cup-winning captain; Lynagh, the record points-scorer in the world game, and Sella, the most capped player of all time. Newcastle have Andrew, the most capped England fly half, who has been an incredibly underrated player in terms of all-round ability.

You can count on the fingers of both hands the number of games that Va'aiga Tuigamala has lost in his career, as we found out when he was at Wasps. They are shrewd off the field as well, with Steve Bates, the coach, pulling the strings. The little things make the difference, the attention to detail that both sides have.

Who will win? It is a close call. It will be interesting to see how one side responds if it cannot impose a pattern and rhythm on the other. People talk about home advantage favouring Saracens, but Newcastle won't be intimidated as they have players who have performed at the highest level in intimidating atmospheres. To have a chance against Saracens you have to play football, to put width on the ball. Newcastle have beaten them already this season — 30-25 at Kingston Park last month — but realised early on that they had to play football and couldn't rely on forward domination. To their credit, they did that.

RACING

Loder set to train for Godolphin in France next year

By Chris McGrath

DAVID LODER looks likely to leave his Newmarket yard at the end of the year to train Godolphin's juveniles at the defunct racecourse at Evry, near Paris. France Galop, the ruling body of French racing, yesterday confirmed that Godolphin had applied to train at the suburban track. The matter will be put to a vote on April 28.

Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, was at pains to emphasise that the proposal should not be associated with concerns expressed by Sheikh Mohammed, in his Gimcrack speech last autumn, about the financial burden of racing horses in Britain. Rather, it was the culmination of a three-year quest for the ideal springboard for Godolphin's juveniles.

Inevitably, the scale of the operation — Loder would start with 120 boxes at Evry — must involve some switch of geographical focus, but the whole premise of Godolphin is that modern racing is a game without frontiers.

Speaking from Al Quoz, where the next Godolphin squad is being prepared for its return to Newmarket next week, Crisford said: "People may see this as part and parcel of the Gimcrack speech, but it would be misleading to make that connection.

"The whole purpose of using Evry would be that the development of our young horses is a crucial part of their future career. We think we have the right person, and we hope that we have now found the right location."

There is an 85-hectare site at Evry, which staged its last meeting in 1996. Though the deal still awaits formal confirmation, it is being treated with enthusiasm by both parties. "We have looked at several different places, and Sheikh Mohammed very much liked what he saw at Evry," Crisford said.

"It has perfect facilities for the training and development of young horses. The turf is in magnificent condition, and a variety of different surfaces could be put down. We also very much like the two-year-old programme in France.

"David will be joining us full-time in November or December, and we very much hope that as many of his staff as possible will be able to come with him. He has shown great finesse with young horses, and is a tremendous backbone for our operation."

Some indication of the way the wind was blowing came earlier this spring, when Loder agreed to take 60 Godolphin juveniles for the new season. In order to accommodate the new intake in his two yards — Graham Lodge and Sefton Lodge — he had to expel all his other patrons, except for his own family and Edward St George, who owns Sefton Lodge.

Crisford confirmed that Saeed bin Suroor will continue to train the main Godolphin team at Moulton Paddocks, in Newmarket. The Evry plan is simply designed to give coherence to the first stage of a Godolphin horse's career, which has thus far been unsatisfactorily stretched between Dubai, Ireland, France, and Britain.

Nonetheless, there will inevitably be those here who find something ominous in the dynamism that sustains the Godolphin adventure.

The meeting at Newbury yesterday was abandoned because of waterlogging. This afternoon's fixture is subject to a 7am inspection.

Merlin's Ring for winning spell

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

NEWBURY

BBC1

2.00: Polar Champ should be primed after a spin on the all-weather. He relishes soft ground and his success at Doncaster last year came from a 1lb lower mark. The booking of Kieren Fallon for mud-loving Fairy Knight catches the eye but **Rutland Chantry** is a hopeful choice. The Queen's runner opened his account when landing a Pontefract handicap last October.

2.30: Of the proven mud-lovers, **Ivan Luis** boasts the best form and he won first time out last year. Delilah is not the easiest of rides but she is at her best on soft ground. The Fly, fifth in the Derby and third in the St Leger, has never raced on ground this soft, but could be a big danger.

3.00: Scorned, Trans Island and Border Arrow have advertised the wellbeing of Ian Balding's three-year-olds during the past week and **Merlin's Ring** is capable of continuing the Kingsclere trainer's purple patch. He progressed throughout last year but showed his best form when he won a group three race in France on very soft ground. The mud-loving La-Faah had Victory Note back in third when winning the Horris Hill Stakes here last year, but the biggest threat could be posed by Soviet Bureau, who won his only start last term.

3.30: Rock Falcon, proven in the mud, is likely to try to make all from his low draw. Kennemara Star won first time out last year. Sweet Wilhelmina invariably comes on after her first run but is drawn wide and **Therhea** is the choice. Twice a winner on similar left-handed tracks last term, he made an eye-catching reappearance at Leicester.

RICHARD EVANS

DAVID GILES



Merlin's Ring, right, is strongly fancied for the Tripleprint Greenham Stakes at Newbury

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: THERHEA
(3.30 Newbury)
Next best: Merlin's Ring
(3.00 Newbury)

AYR

CHANNEL 4

2.25: This is a tremendously competitive race and **Swanbister** can be only a hopeful selection. Len Lungo's progressive chaser was very impressive on a soft surface at Kelso on his penultimate start then found the ground too fast at Uttoxeter. Careysville, Chipped Out and Bitofamixup are also better than they looked last time, but the first two — like Lord Fortune and Feels Like Gold — would prefer softer ground.

2.55: A penalty for his bold win under top weight at Ascot last time will make it hard for Hoh Warrior to see off **Edelweis Du Moulin**, who ran his best race over fences when fourth in the Arkle at Cheltenham. Hoh Warrior stayed on well in eighth that day, but the uphill finish did not favour Edelweis Du Moulin.

3.25: Large Action and Kerawi seem to have lost their way, though the fact that they race prominently might ensure a decent gallop — preventing the sort of false pace Kerawi dictated when beating another small field in the Christmas Hurdle. He has had hard races at Cheltenham and Liverpool since, so **Blowing Wind**, who landed the Imperial Cup and the County Hurdle (five days later), might well continue his progress.

4.05: Coqui Lane could go well at a decent price, even from 20lb out of the handicap. Ottowa must shrug off his exertions at Cheltenham and Aintree, while Brave Highlander — unseated when going well at Becher's second time in the Grand National — is among several that prefer softer ground. By contrast with him and Samlee, the National third, Avro Anson and Stormtracker come here fresh, having missed Aintree. **Stormtracker** goes well after a break and showed that he has stamina to go with his bold style of running when second in the Eider Chase. Paul Carberry might sweeten up Eudipe, but Belmont King is 7lb higher than when winning last year.

4.40: Flying Instructor had a hard race when caught on the line by Jeffell at Aintree, though Lake Kariba would have beaten both but for blundering five out. The latter would prefer softer ground and it should pay to go with a fresh horse in **Down The Fell**, fairly treated and well suited by this sharpish track. The admirable Monnaie Forte, who exploited a lenient hurdles rating at Ascot last time, has had some hard races this year, while the classy Or Royal does not look a straightforward ride.

CHRIS MCGRATH

AYR

THUNDERER

1.55 Running De Cerisy
2.25 Share Options
2.55 Edelweis Du Moulin
3.25 Kerawi
4.05 Ottowa
4.40 Lake Kariba
5.10 Aldicat
5.40 Tonoco

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

1.55 ACCESS COMPUTING JUVENILE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £3,818: 2m) (7 runners)

101 F1133P0 RUNNING DE CERISY 30 (D,F,S) (P Deal) M Pipe 11-10 ... R Dunwoody 111
102 513P422 BARNBURGH BOY 5 (D,S) (M Burke Developments Ltd) T Easterby 11-7 ... L Wyer 119
103 2330 SCARROTS 51 (BF) (Million in Mind Pnrs (7)) N Henderson 10-13 ... M A Fitzgerald 85
104 1F ALCALALI 46 (BF,D,G) (S Semple) M Hammond 10-13 ... R Garritty [illegible]
105 0425 NORDIC CREST 47 (BF) (Silver Cod Partnership) P R Webber 10-13 ... J A McCarthy 101
106 200 BROCTUNE LINE 43 (C Slater, A Evans & J Smith) Mrs M Reveley 10-9 ... P Niven 88
107 3203 SAN FRANCISCO 22 (C Bird) A Whillans 10-1 ... B Harding 100

BETTING: 3-1 Alcalali, 9-2 Barnburgh Boy, Nordic Crest, 5-1 Scarrots, 11-2 Running De Cerisy, 6-1 Broctune Line, 12-1 San Francisco

1997: SHU GAA 11-5 J Osborne (3-1 fav) O Sherwood 7 ran

2.25 SCOTSMAN NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE — C4
(£25,250: 3m 1f) (18 runners)

201 1112-12 BITOFAMIXUP 56 (BF,D,F,G,S) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 7-12-0 ... A Thornton 129
202 UU1111F LUV-U-FRANK 32 (D,F,G,S) (F Farrant) M Pipe 9-11-8 ... R Dunwoody 110
203 1P11F15 CHIPPED OUT 39 (BF,D,G,S) (Domino Racing) M Todhunter 8-11-6 ... P Carberry 121
204 P-51F11 PAPERISING 21 (CD,G,S) (Jockeys Whips) G Richards 6-11-4 ... A Dobbin 112
205 -121F2U COOLE HILL 31 (D,G,S) (B Winfield & J Potter) D Nicholson 7-11-1 ... A Maguire 131
206 30-3141 FREDDIE MUCK 28 (D,G,S) (Mrs C T-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-1 ... C Llewellyn 117
207 25-2151 MOUNTAIN PATH 36 (B,G,S) (A Speelman) N Henderson 8-11-0 ... M A Fitzgerald 112
208 3315P11 FEELS LIKE GOLD 12 (CD,S) (Independent Twine Ltd) G Richards 10-10-13 ... B Harding 117
209 /2/1F61 SOUNDS FYNE 7 (G,S) (Sir Peter O'Sullevan) J FitzGerald 9-10-13 ... G Bradley [illegible]
210 10-F112 SWANBISTER 28 (BF,D,F,G,S) (Col D Greig) L Lungo 8-10-12 ... P Niven 121
211 PP-P121 SHARE OPTIONS 5 (F,G,S) (S Hammond) T Easterby 7-10-10 (6ex) ... L Wyer 103
212 2P41223 JOHN DRUMM 21 (V,BF,F,G,S) (A Jenkins) P R Webber 7-10-8 ... R Garritty 109
213 -4FFP12 LOTTERY TICKET 5 (G,S) (A Parker) T George 9-10-8 ... T J Murphy 116
214 P-21020 JET FILES 35 (G) (Jet Stationery Company Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-3 ... D Leahy 89+
215 65F-11P CAREYSVILLE 70 (BF,S) (G Johnson) Miss V Williams 7-10-3 ... N Williamson 122
216 6-U11F1 CARLINGFORD GALE 28 (F,G,S) (Mrs A Gamble) T George 7-10-2 ... R Johnson 121
217 4-431U1 LORD FORTUNE 21 (D,F,G,S) (T Hemmings) M Hammond 8-10-0 ... C F Swan 125
218 24PF132 OWENS QUEST 38 (F,G,S) (London Racing Club) T Etherington 8-10-0 ... B Powell 127

Long handicap: Owens Quest 9-7.

BETTING: 7-1 Paperising, Swanbister, 8-1 Freddie Muck, Carlingford Gale, 9-1 Sounds Fyne, 10-1 Mountain Path, Feels Like Gold, Lord Fortune, 12-1 others.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Bitofamixup 14l 2nd of 3 to Galatasori Jane in novice chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good). Luv-U-Frank, penultimate start, beat Bay Lough 3l in 11-runner handicap chase at Plumpton (3m 1f, good). Chipped Out a distance 5th of 11 to For Cathal in handicap chase at Sedgefield (3m 4f, good to soft). Paperising beat Selatan 20l in 10-runner novice chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft). Coole Hill unseated rider in amateur chase at Cheltenham (4m, good); previously 6l 2nd of 12 to Kendal Cavalier in novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, soft) with Mountain Path (4lb worse off) 33l 5th and Careysville (levels) pulled up. Freddie Muck beat Swanbister (6lb better off) 3l in 9-runner novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good). Mountain Path beat Knight's Crest 3l in 7-runner novice handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to soft). Feels Like Gold beat Political Mandate 28l in 6-runner novice chase at Kelso (3m 1f, heavy). Sounds Fyne beat Callemoy 5l in 13-runner novice chase at Carlisle (3m, good to soft). Share Options beat Kibby Bank 1l in 5-runner novice handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, soft), previously 5l 2nd of 6 to Madison County in novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good) with Feels Like Gold (1lb better off) pulled up. John Drumm 25l 3rd of 8 to Sperrin View in novice chase at Warwick (3m 4f, good to soft). Lottery Ticket 12l 2nd of 5 to Lancastrian Jet in novice chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, heavy). Carlingford Gale beat Owens Quest (4lb worse off) 1l in 9-runner mares novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good). Lord Fortune beat Gratomi 2½l in 10-runner novice handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to soft).

LUV-U-FRANK, a faller at the Festival, can regain the winning thread

2.55 10TH EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILL NOVICES CHASE — C4
(£16,110: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

301 3-1P401 HOH WARRIOR 17 (G,S) (D Allport) C Brooks 7-11-10 ... G Bradley [illegible]
302 2-22111 BENGERS MOOR 23 (F,G,S) (J Townshend) P Nicholls 7-11-3 ... T J Murphy 123
303 31115-2 BOBBY GRANT 70 (D,G,S) (J Thompson) C Grant 7-11-3 ... P Niven 121
304 1-11114 EDELWEIS DU MOULIN 32 (C,D,F,G,S) (R Ogden) G Richards 6-11-3 ... P Carberry 125
305 222211F ERESPRAY 14 (D,G,S) (T Hemmings) Mrs S Smith 7-11-3 ... R Guest 124
306 -52011U FORESTAL 14 (G,S) (B Maguire) J Howard Johnson 6-11-3 ... A Dobbin 110
307 -01402F INGLETONIAN 7 (BF,D,S) (Mrs H MacTaggart) B Mactaggart 9-11-3 ... B Storey 110
308 3-20212 MOON DEVIL 35 (BF,G) (Sir Colin Southgate) M Camacho 8-11-3 ... B Powell 138
309 141-411 STAN'S YOUR MAN 47 (D,F,G) (Mrs Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 8-11-3 ... A Thornton 95+

BETTING: 6-4 Edelweis Du Moulin, 4-1 Bengers Moor, 11-2 Hoh Warrior, 8-1 Erespray, 10-1 Bobby Grant, 12-1 Moon Devil, 14-1 Forestal, 16-1 others.

1997: SPARKY GAYLE 7-11-10 B Storey (8-15 fav) C Parker 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Hoh Warrior beat Strong Paladin 10l in 8-runner novice handicap chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good). Bengers Moor beat Spring Hebe 11l in 7-runner novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to firm). Bobby Grant 12l 2nd of 4 to Celestial Choir in novice chase at Wetherby (2m 4f, good). Edelweis Du Moulin 4½l 4th of 16 to Champleve in chase grade 1 at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) with Hoh Warrior (7lb worse off) 16l 8th. Stan's Your Man beat Fern Leader 3½l in 10-runner novice chase at Newcastle (3m 4f, good to firm).

EDELWEIS DU MOULIN has a clear chance at these weights

3.25 SAMSUNG SCOTTISH CHAMPION HURDLE — C4
(Limited handicap: £15,670: 2m) (4 runners)

401 1PP-6P4 LARGE ACTION 77 (D,F,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 10-11-7 ... J A McCarthy 137
402 2361253 KERAWI 14 (D,G,S) (M Archer/Miss Broadhurst) N T-Davies 5-11-6 ... C Llewellyn [illegible]
403 0240311 BLOWING WIND 30 (D,G,S) (P Deal) M Pipe 5-11-5 ... R Dunwoody 161
404 166/245 PADRE MIO 140 (D,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 10-10-5 ... G Bradley 117

BETTING: 4-6 Blowing Wind, 2-1 Kerawi, 6-1 Large Action, 14-1 Padre Mio.

1997: SHADOW LEADER 6-10-5 J Osborne (Evens fav) C Egerton 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Large Action 25l 4th to Mistinguett in Cheltenham hurdle (2m 5f, good to soft). Kerawi 26l 3rd to Pridwell in Aintree hurdle (2m 4f, heavy). Blowing Wind beat Advocat 1¾l in Cheltenham handicap hurdle (2m 1f, good). Padre Mio 38l 6th to Star Rage in Newcastle handicap hurdle (2m, good).

KERAWI is taken to profit from the return to two miles

4.05 STAKIS SCOTTISH GRAND NATIONAL — C4
(Handicap chase: £38,550: 4m 1f) (18 runners)

501 21-FPF4 BELMONT KING 35 (CD,G,S) (Mrs B Bond) P Nicholls 10-11-10 ... M A Fitzgerald 106
502 12311F4 OTTOWA 15 (G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 8-10-12 ... T J Murphy 141
503 2-43P33 EUDIPE 35 (G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 6-10-12 ... P Carberry [illegible]
504 2124214 DOM SAMOURAI 29 (B,BF,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 7-10-8 ... C F Swan 143
505 0-33P6U NAHTHEN LAD 14 (B,G,S) (J Shaw) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-8 ... A Thornton 147
506 -042F32 MAJOR BELL 43 (C,G,S) (Middletons/McAllan/Hutton) A Whillans 10-10-5 ... B Harding 137
507 3511333 SAMLEE 14 (F,G,S) (White Lion Partnership) P Hobbs 9-10-0 ... R Dunwoody 136
508 04-12U2 KAMIKAZE 28 (BF,G,S) (Major B Gatensbury) K Bailey 8-10-0 ... N Williamson 121
509 P2-4422 STORMTRACKER 56 (F) (T Davis) C Weedon 9-10-0 ... M Richards 137
510 3-34F15 BARONET 32 (F,G,S) (Mrs D Thompson) D Nicholson 8-10-0 ... A Maguire 137
511 4U1142U BRAVE HIGHLANDER 14 (C,G,S) (S Embiricos) J Gifford 10-10-0 ... P Hide 115
512 12-644P IDIOT'S LADY 35 (G,S) (Mrs J Olinant) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-0 ... D Leahy —
513 124F251 LORD OF THE WEST 21 (S) (Duchess of Westminster) J J O'Neill 9-10-0 ... R McGrath (3) 118
514 0-R11RR WISLEY WONDER 28 (F,G,S) (Wisley Golf Pnrs) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-0 ... C Llewellyn 121
515 1U-2F1F CHOISTY 14 (G,S) (A Swinbank) H Haynes 8-10-0 ... A Dobbin 124
516 3-1R141 COQUI LANE 12 (C,G,S) (J Dun) J Dun 11-10-0 ... B Storey 118
517 -512312 OVERFLOWING RIVER 39 (F,G) (J Wade) J Wade 9-10-0 ... A S Smith 120
518 523P843 OH SO HANDY 16 (V,F,G,S) (Mrs R Smith) R Curtis 10-10-0 ... J Leech 100

Long handicap: Samlee 9-13, Kamikaze 9-13, Stormtracker 9-11, Baronet 9-11, Brave Highlander 9-7, Idiot's Lady 9-4, Lord Of The West 9-0, Wisley Wonder 8-10, Choisty 8-9, Coqui Lane 8-6, Overflowing River 7-11, Oh So Handy 7-6

BETTING: 5-1 Stormtracker, 7-1 Kamikaze, 8-1 Dom Samourai, 9-1 Brave Highlander, Samlee, Ottowa, 10-1 Nahthen Lad, 12-1 Eudipe, 14-1 Baronet, Belmont King, Major Bell, Lord Of The West, 20-1 others.

1997: BELMONT KING 9-11-10 A P McCoy (16-1) P Nicholls 17 ran

FORM FOCUS Ottowa 44l 4th of 8 to Boss Doyle in novice chase at Aintree (3m 1f, soft). Major Bell 14l 2nd of 8 to Davy Blake in handicap chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good). Samlee a distance 3rd of 37 to Earth Summit in Grand National at Aintree (4m 4f, heavy) with Nahthen Lad (5lb worse off) unseated rider. Brave Highlander (levels) unseated rider and Choisty (levels) fell. Kamikaze 7l 2nd of 13 to Miss Orchestra in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (4m 2f, good) with Dom Samourai (1lb better off) 8½l 4th. Stormtracker 3½l 2nd of 11 to Domaine De Pron in handicap chase at Newcastle (4m 1f, good) with Samlee (4lb better off) 13l 3rd and Choisty (7lb worse off) fell. Baronet 10l 5th of 14 to In Truth in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft). Idiot's Lady, penultimate start, 39l 4th of 11 to Ottowa (8lb worse off) in handicap chase at Chepstow (3m 2f, good to soft). Lord Of The West beat Malwood Castle 1¼l in 6-runner handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good to soft).

Carberry can coax the best from EUDIPE, who has slipped to an attractive mark

4.40 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE — C4
(£13,589: 2m) (8 runners)

601 3-33322 OR ROYAL 15 (B,D,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 7-12-0 ... R Dunwoody 151
602 1110113 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 30 (D,F,G,S) (Cumbrian Ltd) T Easterby 9-10-10 ... L Wyer 177
603 3614352 FLYING INSTRUCTOR 14 (D,F,G,S) (Lady Lyell) P R Webber 8-10-7 ... J A McCarthy 173
604 1211231 MONNAIE FORTE 17 (CD,F,G,S) (J Adams) J Adam 8-10-2 ... B Powell 157
605 12F1031 LAKE KARIBA 14 (D,G,S) (Barber/Corry/Millard) P Nicholls 7-10-8 (6ex) ... T J Murphy 152
606 1-3553C DOWN THE FELL 77 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Johnson) J H Johnson 9-10-0 ... A S Smith 140
607 2516223 POLITICAL TOWER 56 (CD,F,G,S) (G Nixon) R Nixon 11-10-0 ... A Dobbin 131
608 111111U ANABRANCH 42 (BF,D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Barker) J Jefferson 7-10-0 ... R Johnson 127

Long handicap: Political Tower 9-8, Anabranch 9-6

BETTING: 3-1 Or Royal, 7-2 Monnaie Forte, 6-1 Down The Fell, Anabranch, 7-1 Flying Instructor, 8-1 others.

1997: MONYMAN 7-10-2 N Williamson (11-2) M Hammond 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Or Royal 1¾l 2nd of 5 to Opera Hat in chase grade 1 at Aintree (2m 4f, soft). Cumbrian Challenge 6l 3rd of 17 to Edredon Bleu in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good) with Flying Instructor (levels) 11l 5th. Flying Instructor neck 2nd of 5 to Jeffell in handicap chase grade 2 at Aintree (2m, soft) with Lake Kariba (1lb better off) 3¼l 3rd. Monnaie Forte beat Tibetan 1l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). Down The Fell neck 2nd of 7 to Cumbrian Challenge (4lb worse off) in handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Anabranch, penultimate start, beat Naysari neck in 9-runner handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good).

OR ROYAL, consistent in top-class events, can defy his big weight

5.10 LINCOLN CIGARS NH FLAT RACE (Div I: £3,599: 2m) (14 runners)

1 1/2 BIT O MAGIC 74 (D,F) (G Adam) R Allan 6-11-11 ... S Melrose (7) —
2 P10 CRAZY HORSE 31 (D,G) (Ashleybank Ltd) L Lungo 5-11-11 ... Mr B Gibson (7) —
3 ALDICAT (Carlord Transmissions Ltd) P R Webber 6-11-4 ... R Garritty —
4 30 ALHALAL 31 (A Swinbank) H Haynes 5-11-4 ... R McGrath (3) —
5 R ASHLEY MUCK 25 (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 ... S Lycett (7) —
6 1 MARKET SCAN 55P (S) (R Seed & Mrs M Seed) J J O'Neill 5-11-4 ... C F Swan —
7 NICELY RELAXED (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 5-11-4 ... J A McCarthy —
8 0-5 OH SO COSY 153 (Mr & Mrs R Green) C Parker 5-11-4 ... B Storey —
9 VALIGAN (R Thorburn) L Lungo 5-11-4 ... R Supple —
10 0-5 WILLIAM OF ORANGE 67 (Special Reserve Racing) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-4 ... J Supple —
11 06 CALL THE TUNE 35 (R McDonald) R McDonald 6-10-13 ... R Johnson —
12 MILL GIRL (R Thomson) R Thomson 5-10-13 ... D Parker —
13 3 ALL GONG 57 (BF) (A Speelman) N Henderson 4-10-12 ... M A Fitzgerald —
14 THREE LAKES (Raeburn Brick Limited) I Semple 4-10-12 ... B Harding —

BETTING: 5-2 Crazy Horse, 7-2 All Gong, 5-1 Nicely Relaxed, 8-1 Ashley Muck, Market Scan, 12-1 others.

5.40 LINCOLN CIGARS NH FLAT RACE (Div II: £3,599: 2m) (14 runners)

1 0-15 JET SPECIALS 63 (D,S) (Jet Stationery) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-11 ... Mr S Durack (3) —
2 1 PARLANCA BAY 42 (D,S) (Mrs L Townsend) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-11 ... Mr C Wilson —
3 33 CHIEF RED NOSE 31 (BF) (J O'Gorman) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 ... C Llewellyn —
4 HONOUR BRIGHT (R Ogden) M Todhunter 5-11-4 ... P Carberry —
5 NO QUARTER (Mrs C Waters) K Bailey 5-11-4 ... N Williamson —
6 0 OVER THE SOLWAY 67 (J Robson) L Lungo 6-11-4 ... W Dowling (7) —
7 1 PADARA 98P (S) (B Hathaway) D Nicholson 6-11-4 ... A Maguire —
8 TOGGI DANCER (Ashleybank Investments Ltd) G Richards 5-11-4 ... A Dobbin —
9 TONOCO (T Hemmings) Mrs S Smith 5-11-4 ... R Guest —
10 0 WOODFIELD RIDE 49 (Mrs M Scholey) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 ... P Niven —
11 NIGHT THERAPY (Sandybrow Stables Ltd) A Bailey 5-10-13 ... R Johnson —
12 0-5 SHE'S ALL HEART 145 (D Griffiths) C Parker 5-10-13 ... D Parker —
13 BUNNYMAN (Mr & Mrs R Green) C Parker 4-10-12 ... B Storey —
14 0 CAMP HILL 26 (G Johnston) J Haldane 4-10-12 ... A S Smith —

BETTING: 4-1 Padara, 5-1 No Quarter, 6-1 Parlanca Bay, Chief Red Nose, 7-1 Jet Specials, 10-1 others.

Pick up the phone
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9/1	Brave Highlander	20/1	Idiot's Lady
9/1	Kamikaze	20/1	Wisley Wonder
9/1	Samlee	25/1	Choisty
10/1	Belmont King	33/1	Coqui Lane
10/1	Eudipe	66/1	Overflowing River
10/1	Ottowa	150/1	Oh So Handy

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NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.00 Premier Generation
2.30 The Fly
3.00 La-Faah
3.30 THERHEA (nap)
4.00 Musical Twist
4.30 Aegean Flame
5.00 Evening World
5.30 King Of Mommur

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.30 THE FLY.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Ivan Luis. 4.00 HOH CHI MIN (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: HEAVY — DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS
7AM INSPECTION

2.00 GRUNDON RECYCLE HANDICAP — BBC1
(£6,385: 1m 2f 6yd) (19 runners)

1 (6) 13145-0 VOLA VIA 18 (D,F,S) (G Smart) I Balding 5-9-10 ... Martin Dwyer 86
2 (15) 02-0064 TOP JEM 18 (D,F,S) (Norcroft Park Stud) M Ryan 4-9-7 ... P McCabe (3) 67
3 (8) 45301-3 POLAR CHAMP 9 (D,F,S) (P Chu) S Woods 5-9-5 ... Pat Eddery 77
4 (12) 156130- BRANDON JACK 218 (D,F,S) (R Michaelson) I Balding 4-9-4 ... S Whitworth 95
5 (17) 22/20-0 ST LAWRENCE 21 (B) (S Manana) C Brittain 4-9-4 ... D Harrison 81
6 (13) 00004-0 ARTFUL DANE 22 (C,F) (S P Lansdown Racing) M Heaton-Ellis 6-9-3 ... S Drowne 102
7 (10) 001040- XYLEM 161 (D,F,G,S) (C Ransom) J Gosden 7-9-2 ... W Ryan 74
8 (16) 003-602 PREMIER GENERATION 9 (CD,S) (Mrs W Oram) D Arbuthnot 5-9-1 ... R Cochrane 88
9 (1) 22254- RUSSIAN RELATION 198 (Mrs Jas Fuller) Mrs P Dutfield 4-9-0 ... J Quinn —
10 (14) 14- CENTRAL COMMITTEE 206 (BF,F) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-10 ... J Reid 76
11 (18) 52421- RUTLAND CHANTRY 180 (D,S) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-10 ... W R Swinburn 82
12 (9) d46306- PRINCESS DANIELLE 192 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Wickham) W Muir 6-8-9 ... J Weaver 78
13 (5) 50640-0 FAIRY KNIGHT 23 (D,F,G,S) (P & S Lever Partners) R Hannon 6-8-7 ... K Fallon 86
14 (3) 02410-0 SILVERY 11 (D,G) (Mrs N Maltby) S Woodman 4-8-4 ... R Ffrench 79
15 (19) 60400-3 BAKERS DAUGHTER 19 (D,F,G) (Mrs S Baker) J Arnold 6-8-1 ... D Biggs 80
16 (2) 00-0023 GOLDEN ACE 9 (BF,C,G,S) (G Linder) R Spicer 5-7-11 ... P Fessey (3) 89
17 (4) /2400-0 PREMIER LEAGUE 74 (D,G,S) (Harlander Pnrs) K C-Brown 8-7-10 ... N Carlisle 77
18 (11) 001005- USA'S PRIDE 202 (F) (A Griffin) Miss G Kelleway 3-7-10 ... R Mullen (5) 64
19 (7) 64504-0 JILLY WOO 17 (Mrs J Wotherspoon) P Hayward 4-7-10 ... P Doe (5) 64

Long handicap: Premier League 7-8, Lisa's Pride 7-7, Jilly Woo 6-11.

BETTING: 7-1 Rutland Chantry, 8-1 Top Jem, Artful Dane, Xylem, 10-1 Polar Champ, Brandon Jack, Premier Generation, Central Committee, Princess Danielle, Golden Ace, 12-1 others.

1997: ROCKFORCE 5-10-0 R Hughes (25-1) M Channon 22 ran

FORM FOCUS Polar Champ 6½l 3rd of 5 to Random Kindness in limited stakes at Lingfield (1m 4f, AW). Brandon Jack 9½l 12th of 18 to Danish Rhapsody in handicap at Goodwood (1m 1f, good). St Lawrence 40l 11th of 13 to Stowaway in stakes at Nad Al Sheba (1m 4f, AW). Artful Dane 24l 20th of 24 to Mozambique in handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to soft). Xylem 9¼l 7th of 23 to Tipperary Sunset in ladies handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to soft). Premier Generation ¾l 2nd of 12 to Protocol in handicap at Leicester (1m 1f 218yd, soft) with Golden Ace (1lb better off) 3¼l 3rd. Russian Relation neck 4th of 15 to Play'motheqallery in apprentice maiden stakes at Cork (7f, good). Central Committee 1¾l 4th of 8 to Imshishway in 2yo auction stakes at Goodwood (7f, good). Rutland Chantry beat Bonanza Peak 1l in 19-runner handicap at Pontefract (1m 2f 6yd, good to soft). Princess Danielle 7¾l 6th of 12 to McGillycuddy Reeks in handicap at York (1m 2f 85yd, good). Fairy Knight 6¼l 7th of 21 to Protocol in apprentice handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to soft) Silvery 13l 11th of 15 to Statajack in handicap at Folkestone (1m 1f 149yd, soft). Bakers Daughter 6l 3rd of 7 to Signs And Wonders in fillies handicap at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW). Premier League 23l 9th of 11 to North Ardar in handicap at Lingfield (1m 4f, AW). Lisa's Pride 6¾l 5th of 6 to Marran in 2yo handicap at Brighton (6f 209yd, firm). Jilly Woo 6¾l last of 14 to Big Ben in handicap at Folkestone (6f 189yd, good).

CENTRAL COMMITTEE is very unexposed and looks worth a decent wager

2.30 LANES END JOHN PORTER STAKES — BBC1
(Group III: £20,400: 1m 4f 5yd) (12 runners)

1 (10) 225452/ I'M SUPPOSIN 32J (D,F,S) (N Cooper) R Rowe 6-8-12 ... R Cochrane —
2 (1) /53102- POSIDONAS 125 (C,D,F,G,S) (A Christodoulou) P Cole 6-8-12 ... T Quinn 113
3 (3) /2/16-2 SACHO 21 (F) (J Henderson) J L Harris 5-8-12 ... J Weaver 115
4 (7) 421415- DELILAH 160 (V,D,S) (Highclere Racing Ltd) M Stoute 4-8-11 ... O Peslier 110
5 (11) 251336- IVAN LUIS 181 (D,F,B) (L Gaucci) M Bell 4-8-11 ... J Reid 105
6 (5) 125214- PALIO SKY 195 (D,F,G,S) (J Nash) J Dunlop 4-8-11 ... Pat Eddery 107
7 (2) 22/110- PERFECT PARADIGM 321 (D,F,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-8-11 ... W Ryan 106
8 (6) 110651- RAINWATCH 15J (CD,G,S) (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 4-8-11 ... R Hughes 109
9 (8) 2/1053- ROYAL AMARETTO 273 (C,F,G) (Harlequin Pnrs) B Meehan 4-8-11 ... W R Swinburn 116
10 (4) 5033-d1 THE FLY 21 (BF,G,S) (Mrs J Corbett) B Hills 4-8-11 ... M Hills 122
11 (12) 1040- FAMETTA 169 (S) (B Vosk) C Brittain 4-8-8 ... K Darley 105
12 (9) 34214-6 VISCOUNTESS BRAVE 16 (F,S) (P Samaan) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-8 ... K Fallon —

BETTING: 3-1 The Fly, 4-1 Ivan Luis, 5-1 Posidonas, 7-1 Palio Sky, 8-1 Delilah, Royal Amaretto, 12-1 Rainwatch, 14-1 others.

1997: WHITEWATER AFFAIR 4-8-8 D Peslier (20-1) M Stoute 13 ran

FORM FOCUS I'm Supposin 1l 2nd of 7 to Asmara in stakes at Leopardstown (1m 2f, soft). Posidonas neck 2nd of 14 to Luso in group 2 stakes at Sha Tin (1m 4f, good to firm). Delilah 11l 5th of 9 to Taipan in group 1 stakes at Capannelle (1m 2f, heavy). Ivan Luis 5¼l 6th of 9 to Caitano in group 1 stakes at San Siro (1m 4f, good). Palio Sky 7l 4th of 9 to Ungaro in 3yo group 2 stakes at Dortmund (1m 6f, good). Perfect Paradigm 26l 13th of 14 to Peintre Celebre in 3yo group 1 stakes at Chantilly (1m 4f, good). Rainwatch beat State Fair 20l in 7-runner stakes at Haydock (1m 3f 200yd, soft). Royal Amaretto 5¼l 3rd of 4 to Arabian Story in stakes (listed) at Newbury (1m 2f 6yd, firm). The Fly disqualified and placed 3rd after beating Poseidon 2l in 8-runner stakes at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to soft) with Sacho (1lb better off) 2l 2nd. Fametta 15l last of 9 to Saafeya in stakes (listed) at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). Viscountess Brave 24l 6th of 7 to Oa Baldoe in stakes (listed) at Longchamp (1m 4f, heavy).

RAINWATCH is fit from hurdling and loves plenty of give in the ground

3.00 TRIPLEPRINT GREENHAM STAKES — BBC1
(Group III: 3-Y-O: £19,860: 7f str) (6 runners)

1 (4) 000416- APACHE RED 180 (F) (Mrs T Burns) D Elsworth 9-0 ... T Quinn 98+
2 (3) 1011- LA-FAAH 176 (CD,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 9-0 ... R Hills 109
3 (2) 360- LONE PIPER 242 (S Manana) C Brittain 9-0 ... K Darley 94
4 (5) 115311- MERLIN'S RING 183 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Plummer & Pnrs) I Balding 9-0 ... O Peslier 105
5 (6) 1- SOVIET BUREAU 248 (D,F) (A Griffin) Miss G Kelleway 9-0 ... K Fallon 114
6 (1) 2153- VICTORY NOTE 176 (C,F) (Mrs J Magnier, R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... J Reid 102

BETTING: 2-1 Merlin's Ring, 9-4 La-Faah, 9-2 Soviet Bureau, Victory Note, 14-1 Apache Red, 16-1 Lone Piper.

1997: YALAIETANEE 9-0 L Dettori (5-1) M Stoute 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Apache Red 23l 6th of 8 to Andy Dufresne in 2yo stakes (listed) at Leopardstown (1m 1f, soft). La-Faah beat Sensory 1¾l in 8-runner 2yo group 3 stakes at Newbury (7f 64yd, good) with Victory Note (levels) 2¾l 3rd. Lone Piper 49l last of 9 to Saratoga Springs in 2yo stakes at York (6f 214yd, good). Merlin's Ring beat Roi Gironde 3l in 4-runner 2yo group 3 stakes at Saint-Cloud (6f 110yd, heavy). Soviet Bureau beat Dark Moondancer 1¾l in 13-runner 2yo novice stakes at Salisbury (6f 212yd, good to firm)

SOVIET BUREAU is a top-class prospect and must not be opposed

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ayr: 2.25 John Drumm, Mountain Path. 4.05 Oh So Handy. Bangor: 5.15 Tanseeq. Newbury: 2.00 St Lawrence. Thirsk: 4.50 Chameli. Wolverhampton: 7.30 Double Appeal.

3.30 LADBROKES SPRING CUP — BBC1
(Handicap: £18,644: 1m 7yd rnd) (15 runners)

1 (7) 534040- GRANNY'S PET 260 (F) (Mrs D Arbib) P Cole 4-9-12 ... T Quinn 96
2 (6) 10310-3 RIGHT WING 21 (D,S) (Earl Cadogan) J Dunlop 4-9-11 ... K Darley 118
3 (10) 04030-1 HUNTERS OF BRORA 21 (D,F,S) (R Gibbons) J Bethell 8-9-10 ... J Weaver [illegible]
4 (9) 65034-0 PEARTREE HOUSE 21 (D,F,S) (Fayzad Thoroughbred Ltd) W Muir 4-9-9 ... J Reid 98
5 (4) 100210- KENNEMARA STAR 210 (D,S) (Windflower Holdings Inc) J Dunlop 4-9-2 ... Pat Eddery 103
6 (3) 5RR151- ROCK FALCON 189 (B,D,G,S) (E Reitel) Lady Herries 5-9-0 ... Dean McKeown 98
7 (14) 14000-0 SAIFAN 21 (V,D,F,G) (D Morris) D Morris 9-8-13 ... K Fallon 99
8 (1) 131535- YABINT EL SULTAN 203 (D,F,S) (GSD Imports) B McMahon 4-8-12 ... R Cochrane 105
9 (2) /11400- BEA'S RUBY 162 (D,S) (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) A Bailey 4-8-11 ... J Bosley (7) 89
10 (5) 41040-4 THERHEA 18 (CD,G,S) (R Gudge, C Lewis) B Millman 5-8-10 ... O Peslier 109
11 (11) 1000-45 MR MAJICA 22 (F) (C Metcalfe) B Meehan 4-8-8 ... W Ryan 80
12 (8) 05300-0 TEST THE WATER 22 (S) (J Threadwell) R Hannon 4-8-6 ... R Hills 78
13 (15) 40230-2 SWEET WILHELMINA 21 (D,G) (C Hoorn) Lord Huntingdon 5-8-4 ... Aimee Cook (5) 100
14 (13) 10004-3 BEN GUNN 22 (D,F,G,S) (M White) P Walwyn 6-7-12 ... R Ffrench 106
15 (12) 113200- ZURS 127 (D,F) (Glendale Partnership Ltd) J R Poulton 5-7-10 ... R Mullen (5) 94

Long handicap: Zurs 7-4.

BETTING: 5-1 Right Wing, 6-1 Hunters Of Brora, Therhea, 8-1 Rock Falcon, 9-1 Kennemara Star, 10-1 Ben Gunn, 12-1 Peartree House, Saifan, Yabint El Sultan, Sweet Wilhelmina, 14-1 others.

1997: HAWKSLEY HILL 4-9-6 J Fortune (5-1 fav) Mrs J Ramsden 19 ran

FORM FOCUS Granny's Pet 7½l 9th of 15 to Jarrocks in 3yo handicap at Goodwood (7f, good to firm). Hunters Of Brora beat King Of Tunes neck in 23-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to soft) with Right Wing (4lb better off) 1¾l 3rd, Peartree House (8lb better off) 18l 14th and Saifan (7lb better off) 18l 15th. Kennemara Star 5¼l 10th of 19 to Solar Storm in handicap at Ayr (1m, good to soft) with Test The Water (2lb better off) 10l 14th. Rock Falcon beat Q Factor 2l in 16-runner handicap at Ascot (1m, heavy) with Zurs (2lb worse off) 12l 3rd and Test The Water (4lb better off) 42l 11th. Yabint El Sultan 3¾l 5th of 10 to Saafeya in fillies handicap at Haydock (1m 2f 120yd, good to firm). Bea's Ruby 48l 7th of 8 to Oops Pettie in fillies stakes at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good). Therhea 5½l 4th of 20 to Sleepless in handicap at Leicester (7f 9yd, soft). Sweet Wilhelmina 1¾l 2nd of 15 to Delight Of Dawn in fillies handicap at Warwick (7f, good to soft). Ben Gunn 3l 3rd of 24 to Mozambique in handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to soft) with Mr Majica (1lb better off) 3¾l 5th and Test The Water (1lb better off) 7l 8th.

Peslier is a key booking for THERHEA who looks to have been laid out

4.00 DUBAI DUTY FREE FRED DARLING STAKES
(Group III: 3-Y-O: £19,500: 7f 64yd rnd) (7 runners)

1 (6) 21222- CRAZEE MENTAL 200 (G) (H O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 9-0 ... A Mackay 108
2 (7) 113203- DAUNTING LADY 231 (G,S) (E Nagell-Erichsen) R Hannon 9-0 ... R Hughes 106
3 (1) 01101- FFESTINIOG 175 (CD,F,S) (Elite Racing Club) P Cole 9-0 ... T Quinn 102
4 (2) 312431- HOH CHI MIN 181 (G,S) (D Allport) M Bell 9-0 ... J Reid 102
5 (3) 2- MUSICAL TWIST 246 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... Pat Eddery [illegible]
6 (5) 031- ONLY IN DREAMS 187 (D,S) (Mascalls Stud) B Meehan 9-0 ... W R Swinburn 94
7 (4) 610- WENDA 182 (F) (B Vosk) C Brittain 9-0 ... O Peslier 105

☐ A recording of this race will be shown on BBC1 at 4.40pm

BETTING: 5-2 Crazee Mental, 11-4 Musical Twist, 9-2 Hoh Chi Min, 5-1 Ffestiniog, 7-1 Daunting Lady, 10-1 Wenda, 25-1 Only In Dreams.

1997: DANCE PARADE 9-0 T Quinn (16-1) P Cole 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Crazee Mental 2½l 2nd of 8 to Embassy in 2yo fillies group 1 stakes at Newmarket (6f, good). Daunting Lady 5l 3rd of 28 to Another Fantasy in 2yo auction stakes at Curragh (6f, good to soft). Ffestiniog beat Amabel 1l in 13-runner 2yo fillies listed stakes at Newbury (7f 64yd, good to soft). Hoh Chi Min beat Hollywood Paradise 2½l in 9-runner 2yo listed stakes at San Siro (6f, good). Musical Twist 1½l 2nd of 16 to Shmoose in 2yo maiden fillies at Newbury (6f 8yd, good to firm). Only In Dreams beat Astrapi 1½l in 14-runner 2yo maiden fillies at Leicester (7f 9yd, soft). Wenda 12l last of 12 to Name Of Love in 2yo fillies group 3 stakes at Newmarket (7f, good), previously beat Atul neck in 8-runner 2yo fillies stakes at Ascot (6f, good to firm).

WENDA is from a stable in form and is open to improvement at this trip

4.30 NETHERAVON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,525: 5f 34yd) (5 runners)

1 (3) 02 AEGEAN FLAME 7 (Theobalds Stud) K Ivory 8-11 ... S Sanders [illegible]
2 (2) GOLDEN SILCA (Aldridge Racing Ltd) M Channon 8-11 ... T Quinn —
3 (4) MAGIC MONDAY (B Allan) R Hannon 8-11 ... R Hughes —
4 (5) MARCH PARTY (Madhatter Racing) J Portman 8-11 ... K Darley —
5 (1) POCO (T Corby) M Channon 8-11 ... A Mackay —

BETTING: 9-4 Aegean Flame, 3-1 Golden Silca, 7-2 Poco, 9-2 Magic Monday, 11-2 March Party.

1997: SUPREME ANGEL 8-11 M Henry (33-1) M Muggeridge 12 ran

5.00 COMPTON CONDITIONS STAKES
(3-Y-O: £8,711: 1m 2f 6yd) (3 runners)

1 (2) 13-4 CLAPHAM COMMON 11 (G) (Anglia B'stock Synd 1996) L Cumani 8-13 ... R Ffrench [illegible]
2 (3) 3134- EVENING WORLD 189 (BF,S) (T Hely-Hutchinson) P Cole 8-11 ... T Quinn 94
3 (1) CASINO CAPTIVE (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-8 ... Pat Eddery —

BETTING: 4-5 Evening World, 7-4 Casino Captive, 5-1 Clapham Common

1997: ROYAL AMARETTO 8-11 O Peslier (4-1) B Meehan 10 ran

5.30 BURGHCLERE MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,980: 1m str) (14 runners)

1 (3) 05- BALLYKISSANN 177 (P De Weck) D Ffrench Davis 9-0 ... S Drowne [illegible]
2 (10) 0- CADILLAC JUKEBOX 170 (F Blenstock) J Hills 9-0 ... M Hills 66
3 (7) 50- CLASSIC IMPACT 186 (Mrs B Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... R Havlin (3) 67
4 (9) 6- COLD FRONT 172 (G Tong) J Hills 9-0 ... A Clark 59
5 (4) GATECRASHER (J Greetham) J Fanshawe 9-0 ... W R Swinburn —
6 (13) KING OF MOMMUR (Three Bears Racing) B Meehan 9-0 ... K Darley —
7 (6) 4-3 MANSA MUSA 5 (Surrey Laminators Ltd) M Channon 9-0 ... Pat Eddery 64
8 (12) ORMELIE (Mrs K Doyle) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... J Reid —
9 (2) 0- SHAPE SHIFTER 253 (G Howard-Spink) R Hannon 9-0 ... R Hughes 66
10 (8) 0- SUN DANCER 275 (E Smith) N Smith 9-0 ... J Bramhill 58
11 (5) BIG BUYER (R Scully) I Balding 8-9 ... S Whitworth —
12 (11) BRIDE'S ANSWER (Mrs J Keegan) M Channon 8-9 ... A Mackay —
13 (1) 50- SILCA KEY SERVICE 242 (BF) (Aldridge Racing Ltd) M Channon 8-9 ... T Quinn 75
14 (14) 0- SILVER SEA 258 (P Mellon) I Balding 8-9 ... Martin Dwyer 46

BETTING: 5-2 Ormelie, 6-1 Shape Shifter, 7-1 Big Buyer, 8-1 Mansa Musa, Silca Key Service, 10-1 Cold Front, King Of Mommur, Silver Sea, 14-1 others.

1997: RASHIK 9-0 R Hills (12-1) W Hern 15 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	31	117	26.5	O Peslier	3	10	30.0
S Woods	3	13	23.1	K Fallon	13	72	18.1
L Cumani	11	50	22.0	J Reid	45	264	17.0
P Chapple-Hyam	28	143	19.6	W Ryan	14	86	16.3
Miss G Kelleway	7	39	17.9	R Hills	14	104	13.5
Lady Herries	9	63	14.3	T Quinn	31	246	12.6

SPECIALISTS

Ayr

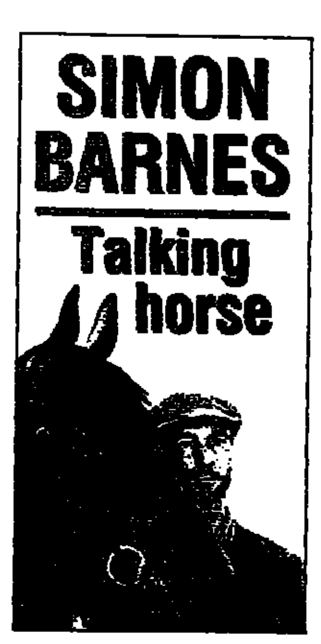
TRAINERS: T Easterby, 6 winners from 15 runners, 40.0%; P Nicholls, 3 from 10, 30.0%; J FitzGerald, 5 from 17, 29.4%; J Gifford, 5 from 17, 29.4%; N Twiston-Davies, 5 from 19, 26.3%; G Richards, 32 from 159, 20.1%.

JOCKEYS: M A Fitzgerald, 3 winners from 7 rides, 42.9%; A Dobbin, 37 from 176, 21.0%; R Supple, 11 from 53, 20.8%; R Garritty, 9 from 48, 18.8%; N Williamson, 5 from 27, 18.5%; P Niven, 21 from 129, 16.3%.

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The search for the Horse of the Century resumed at Newmarket this week

Xaar's the star — for time being



THE world, or at least the world of racing, is divided into people who disbelieve every report about the latest Horse of the Century and pour scorn on every tale of every inflated hope, and those who disbelieve every report about the latest Horse of the Century and revel in it anyway.

The second type dominates racing by rather more than 90 per cent. No one seriously expects Xaar to be the fastest thing on four legs since Pegasus, or even the fastest thing since Nashwan. But on the other hand, what if he was? You wouldn't want to miss it. And you certainly wouldn't want to miss the anticipation.

You'd be a fool to miss the ride. Racing is a religion, but its worshippers are all atheists. They all badly *want* to believe in the latest four-legged Messiah, but most of us have got more sense. Or too much bitter experience. They may not believe, but they come along anyway and bow the knee.

And it helps when the animal is trained by an enigmatic Frenchman with limited English — the limits a matter of his own choosing, naturally. André Fabre is small, rather nattily dressed, a qualified lawyer who is also really rather good at plumbing. He is also really rather good at training racehorses, probably the best in Europe.

He never pats his horses, and he is a fan of Marcel Proust. Quite how a man can live *aux arbres de jeunes cheveaux en fleurs* without bestowing a million pats a day is beyond me. But Fabre is an acknowledged master who did a bit of plumbing to get extra cash in his student days.

But is Xaar the Horse of the Century? Of course he isn't, though don't quote me if he really is. I speak only from statistical odds and — actually not bitter, come to think of it, really rather sweet experience of past disappointments, of horses that have been brilliant *ma non troppo*. Wouldn't have missed one of them, revelled in the lot.

Great as a two-year-old last year, of course. How had he gone through the winter? Had he grown up? Had he, as racing people say, trained on? That was what it was all about, of course, and that was why a lot of people at Newmarket on Thursday did not watch the 2.35 and the horses galloping, but instead watched half a dozen walking round and round with rugs on. The pre-parade ring, the warm-up for the warm-up.

And who was that black horse, or as we horse people so confusingly say, brown horse? The one with the nice white face-markings and the head carried low? "Even then," we will say, "he had something about him that made him special, that made you stop and turn your head and say, 'Well, this is a champion'."

And we will be lying through our teeth. What made us look was the name tag, carried on the sleeve of his smartly suited and pink-shirted lad: No 3. Xaar. What gave him the look of a champion was the fact that all the people were looking at him.

It was just hope, nothing more. Not gross hope for fiscal gain: the much more raw and atavistic hope of seeing a champion. Of touching greatness. Everybody wants to see a great horse. *À la recherche de Pegasus.*

This was his first outing this season, the first time that he had emerged this spring from the forests of Chantilly, where Fabre trains 200, or 220, or 250 horses. No one ever seems quite sure how many: perhaps even Fabre never quite knows. Or perhaps, and about a thousand times more likely, Fabre rather revels in his air of mystery. Rather revels in the hold he has over other trainers: over everyone in France, over more or less everyone in Europe.

Xaar's sire, Zafonic, was a strapper of a beast, always bursting with explosive energy. Laid-back is the term they keep using about Xaar, which sounds rum in a French accent. "E is very led-bark," Fabre was to tell us later.

Loping around the pre-parade ring with a flowing, over-trackng stride; the last bit of jargon meaning that his hind hoof-prints fall beyond his fore-prints. Xaar was to have his first race of the season in France, but Fabre pulled him out because it had been raining. Ha. Only thing more capricious than horses is weather.

So I thought Fabre might duck it, because the Rowley Mile was a bog, but he did not. The horses needed a race before the 2,000 Guineas the weekend after next. He needed it because he is so "led-bark". And perhaps Fabre thought, though he did not say, that a real champion will win on any going, and take on any opposition.

Celtic Swing another Horse of the Century, ducked the Derby and went for the French equivalent. It was a good decision, because he won it. But by then, he had stopped being the Horse of the Century. Behind Xaar a horse unmoving and bronze; Brigadier Gerard. A champion who preferred fast ground but still won on a bog at Ascot. A good omen.

Turn of foot, they call it. Meaning dramatic acceleration. Xaar hung about at the back of the race, looking cool and led-bark, and virtually putting on his shades and lighting a fag. His jockey, Olivier Peslier, even had a poorish moment thinking he might not win; it was a moment shared by an awful lot of others.

Then bang. Peslier showed him the front and Xaar took it. Just like that. On that terrible gluepot of a track. Just for about one and a half seconds in the race, Xaar had wings. And so the atheists can carry on believing: the 2,000 Guineas is there for the taking, and after that, the Derby.

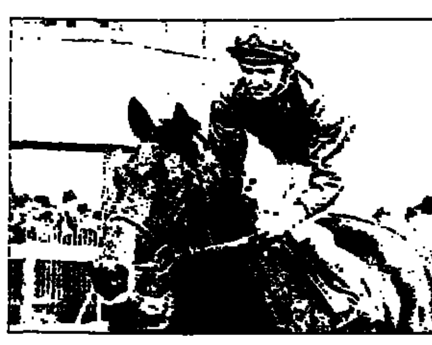
Xaar is not bred for the Derby distance, but he is so led-bark, takes so little out of himself in the early part of the race that — well, we can still carry on talking about the Horse of the Century.

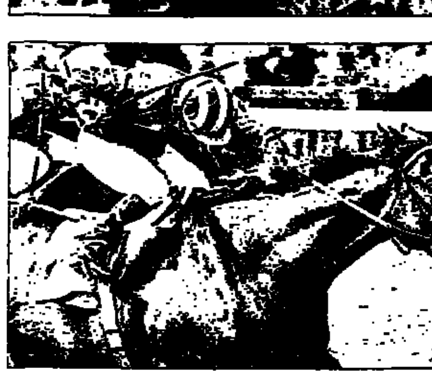
Proust wrote mainly about disappointment. So do racing writers. Never any surprises in racing, just an awful lot of disappointments: Stoute's Law, as confided by Michael Stoute, the trainer, to this column.

It will be no surprise if Xaar wins the Guineas; no surprise if he wins the Derby. It won't be surprising: it will just be amazing. And then the King George and the Arc and the Breeder's Cup and the Japan Cup — always a way to stretch hope that little bit further, until it shatters into disappointment. The greater the hope, the greater the disappointment.

Which sounds grim and glum and fatalistic, when it is quite the reverse. That's life, we say in disappointment: indeed it is. Horses are life-affirming creatures, and hope is more or less a necessary condition of life. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride. But in racing, wishes *are* horses and it is not just jockeys and sheikhs that enjoy the ride. All of us with sporting blood in the veins will continue to revel in the ride aboard the Horse of the Century. This year. Every year.









Xaar, with rug still in place, waits for his first run as a three-year-old and the chance to justify favouritism for the 2,000 Guineas, a classic won in previous years by such champions as Brigadier Gerard, top, and Nashwan, centre. Celtic Swing, bottom, finished second but went on to take the French Derby

Dalton keeps options open

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

TRYING to discover which horses would be in action this weekend was like unravelling a murder mystery yesterday. Heavy ground, postponed and rescheduled meetings and confusion about where the opposition would be in action led to much indecision among trainers.

It is anybody's guess at the likely line-up for the Lady Dudley Cup, one of the season's highlights, at today's **Worcestershire** meeting. A strong field of 24 has been entered, but Avostar, who ran two days ago at Cheltenham, Double Thriller, who won last year's race but had a hard seasonal debut a week ago, injured Viridian and firm-ground specialists, Shoon Wind and Grimley Gale, are doubtful.

That still leaves some top horses — the all-conquering Heather Dalton stable could run Rolier or Solba, while Mark Jackson has Perfect Light or unexposed Maypole Fountain as possibles. Ronans Glen also enters calculations.

The various championships given to horses and riders are another reason why moves behind the scenes sometimes resembles a chess game. Solba, for instance, could try for the kudos of the Lady Dudley, but he is in contention for the champion horse award and rider Andrew Dalton has designs on the men's title. It might therefore be in the interests of his stable to go to the **North Staffordshire**, where he could tackle an easier men's open race.

Butler John, the reigning champion, remains the horse most likely to win the title but he stays in his box today, Victor Dartnall reasoning that there is no point in submitting him to a hard race at the **Portman** fixture.

Cool Dawn, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, parades at this meeting and his owner, Dido Harding, has a good chance on Cardinal Gayle in the ladies' race, where Pip Jones, the women's title leader, could be in opposition on Warren Boy.

Makin' Doo, a winner on the opening day of the season but then struck down by a virus, makes a welcome reappearance at the **Bedale**. His rider, Andrew Parker, has a good chance to win the men's open at the **Jedforest** 24 hours later on Royal Stream.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Bedale at Hornby Castle, S of Catterick (first race 2.00), Bicester, Kingston Blount, 6m N of High Wycombe (1.30); Dartmoor, Flete Pk, 10m E of Plymouth (2.00); Essex & Suffolk, Higham, 8m NE of Colchester (2.00); Staffs, Sandon, 4m SE of Stone (2.00); Old Surrey & Burstow (postponed); Pentyrch (postponed); Portman, Badbury Rings, 4m W of Wimborne (2.00); Worcs, Chaddesley Corbett, between Bromsgrove-Kidderminster (2.00). TOMORROW: Cheshire Forest, Tabley, W of Knutsford (2.00); Jedforest, Friars Haugh, W of Kelso (2.00). Ludlow, Bitterley, 4m N of Ludlow (2.00); Quorn, Garthorpe, 6m E of Melton Mowbray (2.15); Staintondale, Charm Pk, 6m S of Scarborough (2.00); Tivyside, Pantyderi, 6m W of Newcastle Emlyn (1.00), W Somerset, Cothelstone, 3m N of Bishops Lydeard (2.00).

Lake Kariba seeks double

LAKE KARIBA, trained by Paul Nicholls, is likely to make a quick reappearance after winning the Grandhome Children 1st Novices' Chase at Ayr yesterday. After easily justifying odds of 5-4 on, he was nominated as a probable starter, under a 6lb penalty, in the Mitsubishi Handicap Chase at the same track this afternoon.

Bellator, withdrawn from the Samsung Electronics Scottish Champion Hurdle, could tackle the Chester Cup, his trainer, Toby Balding, said yesterday. "He threw up a low blood count so we've had to miss Ayr," Balding added. "It might not be a bad thing as the ground looks fast enough for him. It could even be good to firm tomorrow."

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: **Brighton** (first race, 2.00), Nottingham (2.10), Hexham (2.20).
TUESDAY: **Folkestone** (2.00), **Pontefract** (2.15), Chepstow (2.40).
WEDNESDAY: **Redcar** (2.00), **Epsom** (C4, 2.05), Perth (2.20), Towcester (2.10)
THURSDAY: **Beverley** (2.10), Fontwell Park (2.00), Perth (2.20)
FRIDAY: **Sandown Park** (2.05), **Carlisle** (2.25), Perth (2.15), Ludlow (5.30), Taunton (5.40), Warwick (5.20)
SATURDAY: **Sandown Park** (C4, 2.15), **Leicester** (2.00), **Ripon** (2.05), **Wolverhampton** (AW, 7.00), Market Rasen (2.10), Sedgefield (5.40), Worcester (5.20).

Flat meetings in bold

THIRSK

THUNDERER
2.20 Shaffishayes. 2.50 Executive Event. 3.20 Benzoe. 3.50 Nigrasine. 4.20 Quiet Assurance. 4.50 Piped Abroad. 5.20 Thelonius. 5.50 Queen's Insignia.

Newmarket Correspondent: 4.20 Quiet Assurance.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT   DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH BEST   SIS

2.20 RACING CHANNEL LIMITED STAKES (£2,835: 1m 4f) (6 runners)

1 31-6 DOC RYAN'S 9 (D,S) M Ryan 4-9-9 ... P Robinson 2
2 000- MY LEARNED FRIEND 204 (D,F,G) S Woods 7-9-8 ... N Day 4
3 20-5 SHAFFISHAYES 18 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-8 ... A Culhane 3
4 6152 SMART BOY 18 (D,F) P Cole 4-9-7 ... C Rutter 6
5 342- TARXIEN 172 (BF,D,G,S) K Burke 4-9-7 ... D Sweeney (3) 5
6 1213 KIERANS BRIDGE 7 (D) A Jarvis 3-8-3 ... A McCarthy (5) 1

3-1 Smart Boy, 7-2 Tarxien, 9-2 Kierans Bridge, 5-1 My Learned Friend, Shaffishayes, 6-1 Doc Ryan's.

2.50 KNAYTON CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,688: 5f) (9)

1 EL JAYTEE M W Easterby 9-3 ... S Finnamore (7) 4
2 0 EXECUTIVE EVENT 23 P Haslam 9-3 ... C Lowther (3) 5
3 3 THE DONK 7 B Rothwell 9-0 ... M Fenton 6
4 0 BODFARI ANNA 21 M W Easterby 8-12 ... T Lucas 2
5 MAMMAS F-C J Berry 8-10 ... G Carter 8
6 0 MIDRUSH 23 J Wainwright 8-8 ... G Parkin 1
7 DISPOL TRUMP P Calver 8-4 ... J Carroll 3
8 0 GOLDEN SKY 21 N Tinkler 8-2 ... Kim Tinkler 7
9 LADY ANSHAN N Bycroft 7-10 ... S Maloney 9

13-8 Mammas F-C, 5-1 Executive Event, 7-1 Bodfari Anna, 8-1 The Donk, Lady Anshan, 10-1 Dispol Trump, 12-1 El Jaytee, Golden Sky, 14-1 Midrush.

3.20 THOMAS LORD HANDICAP (£7,772: 5f) (21)

1 330- PRINCE DOME 220 (D,F,S) M Wane 4-10-0 ... J Carroll 12
2 5320 ZIGGY'S DANCER 22 (D,F,G) E Alston 7-9-11 ... P Robinson 3
3 60-2 LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 23 (D,G,S) M H-Ellis 10-9-10 ... DOUBTFUL 2
4 4450 BRUTAL FANTASY 22 (D,F,G) J Eyre 4-9-8 ... R Lappin 17
5 20-0 SQUIRE CORRIE 9 (CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 6-9-9 ... A McCarthy (5) 4
6 00-3 LAGO DI VARANO 18 (V,D,F,G,S) R Whitaker 6-9-8 ... M Tebbutt 19
7 00-0 TREASURE TOUCH 18 (CD,F,S) D Nicholls 4-9-7 ... Alex Greaves 1
8 40-4 MARTON MOSS 10 (D,F,S) T Easterby 3-9-5 ... D Holland 13
9 1430 REDOUBTABLE 35 (D,F,G) D Chapman 7-9-4 ... A Culhane 15
10 155- MANTLES PRIDE 173 (D,F) P Calver 3-9-2 ... Darren Moffatt (3) 18
11 21-0 AFAAN 23 (V,D,F,G,S) R Marvin 5-9-0 ... T G McLaughlin 5
12 00-0 YOUNG BIGWIG 14 (D,F) D Chapman 4-9-0 ... D Sweeney (3) 9
13 0-52 SMOKO 9 (V,D,F) P Evans 4-8-13 ... J F Egan 8
14 0-00 BORETSKI 10 (D,F,G,S) N Tinkler 5-8-12 ... Kim Tinkler 10
15 0-00 BENZOE 10 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 8-8-11 ... J Fortune 7
16 0-00 SWAN AT WHALLEY 80 (D,G,S) R Fahey 8-8-9 ... O Pears 20
17 0R1- ARJAN 183 (D,S) J Berry 3-8-5 ... C Lowther (3) 6
18 00-0 RUM LAD 18 (D,F,S) J J Quinn 4-8-4 ... J Lowe 16
19 -000 SWYNFORD DREAM 23 (D,F,G) J Hetherton 5-8-3 ... L Charnock 11
20 214- POLLY GOLIGHTLY 162 (B,D,S) M Blanshard 5-8-2 ... Dale Gibson 14
21 1004 SUE ME 5 (S) D Nicholls 6-8-0 ... F Norton 21

13-2 Swino, 7-1 Lago di Varano, Afaan, 8-1 Ziggy's Dancer, Marton Moss, Arjan, 10-1 Treasure Touch, Sue Me, 12-1 others.

3.50 MICHAEL FOSTER MEMORIAL CONDITIONS STAKES (£6,184: 6f) (8)

1 233- TOMBA 161 (BF,D,G,S) B Meehan 4-8-12 ... M Tebbutt 1
2 424- BISHOPS COURT 174 (D,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-0 ... J Fortune 8
3 0-42 CARRANITA 5 (BF,CD,F,G,S) B Palling 8-9-0 ... T Sprake 3
4 085- CAYMAN KAI 274 (F,S) R Hannon 5-9-0 ... Dane O'Neill 6
5 124- DOUBLE ACTION 176 (C,D,G,S) T Easterby 4-9-0 ... L Charnock 2
6 /880 FIRE DOME 23 (D,G,S) D Nicholls 6-9-0 ... Alex Greaves 5
7 03-5 NIGRASINE 21 (V,D,F,G) J Eyre 4-9-0 ... T Williams 4
8 434- VENTURE CAPITALIST 193 (CD,F,G) D Nicholls 9-9-0 ... F Norton 7

3-1 Tomba, 7-2 Bishops Court, 9-2 Carranita, 5-1 Double Action, 7-1 Nigrasine, 10-1 Cayman Kai, Venture Capitalist, 16-1 Fire Dome.

4.20 THIRSK CLASSIC TRIAL CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £9,064: 1m) (6)

1 40-1 SHARP PLAY 10 (G,S) M Johnston 9-5 ... D Holland 5
2 215- QUIET ASSURANCE 175 (G) E Dunlop 9-0 ... G Carter 3
3 00-1 RIDGEWAY 11 (D,S) G Wragg 9-0 ... M Roberts 2
4 500- FILEY BRIGG 202 (F,S) W Kemp 8-13 ... J Carroll 1
5 3-1 KING SLAYER 17 (G) B Smart 8-11 ... J Stack 6
6 22-2 PROLIX 23 (BF) B Hills 8-11 ... Paul Eddery 4

9-4 Quiet Assurance, 3-1 Ridgeway, Prolix, 9-2 Sharp Play, 12-1 King Slayer, 14-1 Filey Brigg

4.50 BYLAND MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: £2,338: 7f) (11)

1 4530 AJNAD 38 R Marvin 4-9-10 ... T G McLaughlin 2
2 040- KAILEY GODDESS 262 R Armstrong 5-9-10 ... R Price 6
3 000- SPARKLING HARRY 173 Miss L Siddall 4-9-10 ... Y Siddall (7) 1
4 053- VIOLETTE SABO 148 T Etherington 4-9-7 ... A Culhane 7
5 000- DETROIT CITY 184 J Berry 3-8-11 ... S Maloney 3
6 -336 HAPPY WANDERER 80 P Haslam 3-8-11 ... P Goode (7) 11
7 566- PIPED ABOARD 182 J Dunlop 3-8-11 ... G Carter 9
8 006- BOLLIN ANN 213 T Easterby 3-8-8 ... L Charnock 10
9 -533 CHAMELI 19 (B) Mrs L Stubbs 3-8-8 ... Dane O'Neill 8
10 45-4 SALIGO 18 H Morrison 3-8-8 ... C Rutter 5
11 0-62 SEA FIG 94 T Barron 3-8-8 ... J Carroll 4

7-2 Piped Aboard, 5-1 Sea Fig, 11-2 Chameli, 7-1 Bollin Ann, Saligo, 8-1 Kailey Goddess, Happy Wanderer, 10-1 others.

5.20 BYLAND MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: £2,320: 7f) (10)

1 4355 BARITONE 29 (B) S Kettlewell 4-9-10 ... P Fredericks (7) 10
2 60-3 BARROW CREEK 15 (BF) G Wragg 4-9-10 ... M Roberts 5
3 0060 ONE SHOT 71 (B) W Muir 5-9-10 ... Dane O'Neill 2
4 005- HEY UP MATE 202 J Berry 3-8-11 ... C Lowther (3) 1
5 0-02 PORCELLINO 14 K Burke 3-8-11 ... D Sweeney (3) 3
6 255- THELONIUS 209 J G Smyth-Osbourne 3-8-11 ... R Perham 8
7 000- TORSO 210 Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-11 ... J Fortune 6
8 65-0 DRY LIGHTNING 21 M Bell 3-8-8 ... M Fenton 4
9 634- FRISKY LADY 257 T Easterby 3-8-8 ... L Charnock 7
10 000- WILD LILLY 179 M Ryan 3-8-8 ... P Robinson 9

4-1 Dry Lightning, 5-1 Barrow Creek, Frisky Lady, 11-2 Thelonius, 7-1 Torso, 8-1 Hey Up Mate, 10-1 Baritone, Wild Lilly, 12-1 others.

5.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (£3,782: 1m) (14)

1 6-41 CASHMERE LADY 26 (CD,F,G) J Eyre 8-10-0 ... O Pears 5
2 500- SAFFRON ROSE 232 (D,G,S) M Blanshard 4-10-0 ... Dale Gibson 1
3 420- MOUCHE 165 (F) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-13 ... J Fortune 8
4 549- CHINABERRY 262 M Britain 4-9-11 ... J Carroll 2
5 453- FLOW BY 187 (F) J Dunlop 3-9-5 ... G Carter 6
6 00-0 JUST VISITING 32 (G) B Hanbury 4-8-4 ... M Roberts 10
7 0000 FALLS O'MONESS 9 (S) K Burke 4-8-11 ... J F Egan 11
8 40-2 QUEEN'S INSIGNIA 16 (D,F,G,S) D Arbuthnot 5-8-10 ... C Rutter 13
9 /00- SWEET BETTSIE 338 K Burke 4-8-9 ... D Sweeney (3) 7
10 55-2 SWEET PATOOPIE 15 B Hanbury 4-8-8 ... J Stack 14
11 624- MARSKE MACHINE 165 (G,S) N Tinkler 3-8-6 ... Kim Tinkler 12
12 400- MISS MAIN STREET 205 (F) J J Quinn 3-8-2 ... G Duffield 9
13 4022 DANCING DESTINY 11 (D) R Bastiman 6-7-11 ... L Charnock 3
14 0/5- SILENT WELLS 352 J J Quinn 4-7-10 ... D Mernagh (7) 4

4-1 Flow By, 5-1 Cashmere Lady, 6-1 Mouche, 7-1 Queen's Insignia, 8-1 Dancing Destiny, 10-1 Saffron Rose, Miss Main Street, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

THIRSK: Trainers: B Hills, 7 winners from 16 runners, 43.8%; J Dunlop, 8 from 24, 33.3%; M Bell, 3 from 15, 20.0%; B Hanbury, 4 from 20, 20.0%; M Johnston, 16 from 84, 19.0%. JOCKEYS: M Fenton, 4 winners from 13 rides, 30.8%, D Holland, 7 from 24, 29.2%; Paul Eddery, 6 from 29, 20.7%, G Duffield, 15 from 76, 19.7%.

BANGOR: Trainers: R Bevis, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60.0%, M Pipe, 26 from 84, 31.0%, P Hobbs, 8 from 27, 29.6%; D Nicholson, 14 from 49, 28.6%; O Sherwood, 5 from 21, 23.8%. JOCKEYS: R Bevis, 3 winners from 6 rides, 50.0%, W Marston, 9 from 50, 18.0%, G Tormey, 3 from 17, 17.6%. Only qualifiers.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Trainers: P Eccles, 5 winners from 23 runners, 21.7%, R Williams, 3 from 15, 20.0%; J Pearce, 14 from 80, 17.5%; N Tinkler, 7 from 46, 15.2%; J Berry, 47 from 315, 14.9%. Jockeys: D Holland, 33 winners from 152 rides, 21.7%, J Weaver, 62 from 294, 21.1%, D Sweeney, 14 from 88, 15.9%; A McCarthy, 16 from 106, 15.1%; C Lowther, 13 from 92, 14.1%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ayr

Going: good

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Kadou Nonantais (J A McCarthy, 13-8 fav); 2, Premier Cru (7-1); 3, Justin Mac (7-4). 5 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. O Sherwood. Tote: £2.70; £1.20, £2.80. DF: £4.70. CSF: £10.18.

2.30 (2m ch) 1, Lake Kariba (T J Murphy, 4-5 fav); 2, Welsh March (3-1); 3, Zabadi (7-2). 4 ran. NR: Judicious Norman. 6l, 6l. P Nicholls. Tote: £1.80. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.04.

3.00 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Kit Smartie (N Williamson, 14-1); 2, Shore Party (6-1); 3, Marlborough (11-4). Lord Of The River 2-1 fav. 9 ran. 3½l, 10l. D Forster. Tote: £11.50; £2.60, £1.70, £1.10. DF: £33.50. Trio: £21.90. CSF: £80.03.

3.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, Colonel In Chief (P Carberry, 9-1); 2, Corston Joker (3-1 fav); 3, Mr Knitwit (9-2). 8 ran. 3½l, 4l. G Richards. Tote: £8.70; £2.70, £1.40, £1.10. DF: £25.20. CSF: £28.00. Tricast: £101.55.

4.00 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Kings Measure (L Wyer, 11-4); 2, Zander (2-1 fav); 3, Runaway Pete (6-1). 5 ran. NR: Ardronan. 2l, 10l. J Jefferson. Tote: £3.60; £1.90, £1.30. DF: £3.60. CSF: £7.52.

4.30 (3m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Jigtime (Mr M Bradburne, evens fav); 2, Howayman (5-1); 3, Tartan Tradewinds (9-1). 8 ran. 10l, 1½l. J Hughes. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.60, £1.60. DF: £2.80. CSF: £5.44.

5.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Skillwise (L Wyer, 10-1); 2, Veridian (5-1); 3, Lord York (3-1 fav). 8 ran. Hd, 3l. T Easterby. Tote: £10.50; £1.80, £2.40, £1.30. DF: £53.10. CSF: £52.51. Tricast: £170.31.

Placepot: £11.50.   Quadpot: £3.40.

Thirsk

Going: good to soft

2.20 (1m) 1, Three For A Pound (J Fortune, 13-2); 2, Finisterre (25-1); 3, Legal Issue (12-1); 4, I Can't Remember (11-1). Time Of Night 9-2 fav. 18 ran. 2½l, 3½l. J Glover. Tote: £8.80; £2.00, £9.40, £6.60, £2.50. DF: £230.70. Trio: not won (pool of £1,150.59 carried forward to 4.05 Ayr today). CSF: £178.94. Tricast: £1,895.26.

2.50 (7f) 1, Night Of Glass (D Holland, 11-2); 2, Davis Rock (9-1); 3, Grey Kingdom (3-1 fav). 15 ran. NR: What Happened Was. 2½l, ½l. J Eyre. Tote: £6.80; £1.20, £3.30, £1.50. DF: £29.00. Trio: £35.40. CSF: £62.81. Tricast: £176.61.

3.20 (1m 4f) 1, Elhayq (J Carroll, 9-4); 2, Bint Kaldoun (13-8 fav); 3, Speaker's Chair (2-1). 8 ran. 5l, 12l. J Dunlop. Tote: £3.10; £1.10, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £3.90. CSF: £6.04.

3.50 (5f) 1, Kastaway (C Lowther, 6-1); 2, Rose's Treasure (8-1); 3, Westwood View (33-1). Calando 4-7 fav. 11 ran. ¾l, 1l. J Berry. Tote: £5.70; £1.80, £1.60, £4.40. DF: £13.10. Trio: £88.30. CSF: £51.48.

4.20 (5f) 1, Daawe (S D Williams, 7-1); 2, Jennelle (5-4 fav); 3, Double Oscar (11-2). 7 ran. Sh hd, ½l. J Glover. Tote: £9.80; £3.00, £1.50. DF: £8.60. CSF: £16.19.

4.50 (6f) 1, Island Race (D Harrison, 11-1); 2, Prime Hand (7-2); 3, Nuclear Debate (5-2). Dil 6-4 fav. 17 ran. 1¾l, nk. J Fanshawe. Tote: £21.40; £5.40, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £61.80. Trio: £80.90. CSF: £55.03.

Placepot: £113.50.   Quadpot: £12.50.

☐ Yesterday's meeting at Newbury was abandoned because of waterlogging.

BANGOR

THUNDERER
2.10 Builder Boy. 2.40 Merger Mania. 3.10 Centaur Express. 3.45 Winter Rose. 4.15 Bendor Mark. 4.45 Braes Of Mar. 5.15 Club Caribbean.

Carl Evans: 2.40 Merger Mania. 4.45 Callerose.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES)   SIS

2.10 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HURDLE (£2,990: 2m 4f) (15 runners)

1 01P KRISCLIFFE 39 (S) O Sherwood 5-11-6 ... Mr G Baines (7)
2 245P BUILDER BOY 15 S Brookshaw 8-11-0 ... X Aizpuru (3)
3 -445 CENTO 28 (B) Mrs S Williams 5-11-0 ... S McNeill
4 0PP GREAT WOLF 38 T Wall 5-11-0 ... Gary Lyons
5 HERE COMES TROUBLE John Berry 7-11-0 ... L Aspell (3)
6 00 JUSTICE ALONE 35 D Nicholson 5-11-0 ... R Thornton
7 002 LATCHFORD 113 I Williams 6-11-0 ... E Husband (3)
8 43 REINHARDT 26 (B) L Lloyd-James 5-11-0 ... M H Naughton (5)
9 P-00 TIGER BRIGHT 14 T Wall 9-11-0 ... J Mogford (7)
10 2/22 TREMALLT 16 T Forster 7-11-0 ... S Wynne
11 PP00 TWO LORDS 10 H Kavanagh 6-11-0 ... P Henley (3)
12 -004 WESTCOAST 24 (B) M Tate 7-11-0 ... W Marston
13 3-0 BE MY ROMANY 131 J R Hughes 6-10-9 ... D Gallagher
14 -P0P DONNRUA 134 (S) F Jordan 7-10-9 ... D Byrne
15 P4F1 SPRINT UP 11 (B,S) M Pipe 4-10-7 ... J Evans

3-1 Sprint Up, 5-1 Builder Boy, 6-1 Tremallt, 7-1 Latchford, 8-1 Justice Alone, Reinhardt, 10-1 Kriscliffe, 12-1 others.

2.40 OVERTON OPEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,648: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1 42F3 ANDERMATT 4 (CD,G,S) J Mackie 11-12-7 ... J R Cornwall (7)
2 -56U CHEEKY POT 21P (B,D,F,G,S) B Preece 10-12-0 ... H Ephgrave (7)
3 /1-U FARDROSS 15 (G) P Eccles 12-12-0 ... C Stockton (7)
4 P01F MERGER MANIA 24 (G,S) S Rook 6-12-0 ... D Mansell (7)
5 -0PP SIR-EILE 62P (F) D Ibbotson 10-12-0 ... N Kent (7)

5-4 Merger Mania, 9-4 Andermatt, 3-1 Fardross, 10-1 Cheeky Pot, 50-1 Sir-Eile.

3.10 MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION NOVICES CHASE (£4,221: 2m 1f 110yd) (5)

1 U441 AMBLESIDE 16 (G,S) Mrs S Williams 7-11-6 ... S McNeill
2 12F3 CENTAUR EXPRESS 5 (CD,G,S) A Streeter 6-11-6 ... R Thornton
3 P532 DESERT CALM 24 D McCain 9-11-0 ... S Wynne
4 2044 HAWKFIELD 44 (BF,S) P Hobbs 9-11-0 ... Mr R Widger (7)
5 3465 PRUSSIA 25 (F) W Clay 7-11-0 ... G Tormey

15-8 Centaur Express, 9-4 Ambleside, 7-2 Prussia, 7-1 Hawkfield, 8-1 Desert Calm.

3.45 LEX COMMERCIALS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,615: 3m) (7)

1 4430 SILLARS STALKER 60 (F,G,S) Mrs Swinbank 10-11-10 ... W Marston
2 8340 FLYING GUNNER 17 (D,S) D Nicholson 7-11-7 ... R Thornton
3 0P1P BANN VIEW 21 (D,S) C Brooks 7-11-3 ... M Berry (5)
4 4-PC ALLOW 10 (B,S) B Llewellyn 7-10-10 ... S Wynne
5 P056 VERYVEL 4 (V,G,S) J Neville 7-10-5 ... J Culloty
6 2553 WINTER ROSE 14 (D,S) Miss P Whittle 7-10-2 ... K Hibbert (7)
7 0100 MR CHRISTIE 25 (D,G,S) Miss L Siddall 6-10-1 ... M Foster

11-4 Allow, 7-2 Mr Christie, 4-1 Flying Gunner, Winter Rose, 6-1 Bann View, 12-1 Sillars Stalker, 20-1 Veryvel

4.15 MALPAS HANDICAP CHASE (£5,016: 3m 110yd) (5)

1 PP1P PARSONS BOY 5 (CD,G,S) G Richards 9-12-0 ... E Callaghan
2 P/5P EDIMBOURG 50 (F,G,S) P Hobbs 12-11-2 ... G Tormey
3 -3PF BENDOR MARK 16 (D,S) M Wilkinson 9-10-8 ... W Marston
4 4P30 OLIVER'S SECRET 31 (G) M Pipe 8-10-0 ... J Evans
5 1/25 DOROBO 42 (B,BF,D,G,S) T Forster 10-10-0 ... R Thornton

5-2 Parsons Boy, 11-4 Oliver's Secret, 7-2 Dorobo, 4-1 Bendor Mark, 6-1 Edimbourg.

4.45 JANE MCALPINE MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,690: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 0-12 BRAES OF MAR 18 (D,F,G,S) N Henderson 8-12-4 ... W McLennon (7)
2 1543 HIGHWAY FIVE 2 (CD,S) Lady Brooke 10-12-4 ... Miss E James (7)
3 -656 ATTLE 21P (D,G) B Preece 9-12-0 ... H Ephgrave (7)
4 /F1- CALLEROSE 385P (D,G,S) R Bevis 11-12-0 ... R Bevis (7)
5 14-P ROSKEEN BRIDGE 21P (D,S) P Swift 7-12-0 ... N Kent (7)
6 3213 SHEER ABILITY 13P (D,S) R Crosby 12-12-0 ... Miss F Hatfield (7)

4-6 Braes Of Mar, 6-1 Highway Five, 13-2 Sheer Ability, 7-1 Callerose, 10-1 Roskeen Bridge, 25-1 Attle.

5.15 CROSS LANES HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,970: 2m 1f) (10)

1 4221 POMME SECRET 25 (B,D,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-10 ... J Evans
2 PPF0 TANSEEQ 5 (V,CD,G,S) M Meagher 7-11-2 ... D Byrne
3 1368 RIVERBANK ROSE 24 (CD,G,S) W Clay 7-11-0 ... G Tormey
4 6236 WANTIN 7 C Fairhurst 4-10-13 ... J Callaghan
5 1F61 EBEN AL HABEEB 24 (CD,S) D McCain 7-10-11 ... S Wynne
6 P5P JILL 128 S Brookshaw 7-10-9 ... X Aizpuru (3)
7 -501 SYLVESTER 18 (D,G) Miss A Broyd 8-10-7 ... R Thornton
8 0431 CROMABOO CROWN 10 (G) P Bevan 7-10-7 ... W Worthington
9 0-15 CLUB CARIBBEAN 150 (D,F) P Hobbs 5-10-6 ... Mr R Widger (7)
10 31P- FIRST BEE 409 (F) F Jordan 7-10-4 ... R Farrant

4-1 Eben Al Habeeb, 9-2 Club Caribbean, 5-1 Sylvester, 6-1 Pomme Secret, 13-2 Cromaboo Crown, 8-1 Riverbank Rose, Wantin, 14-1 others.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
7.00 Petoskin. 7.30 Elite Hope. 8.00 Tallulah Belle. 8.30 Cheek To Cheek. 9.00 Consultant. 9.30 Rise 'N Shine.

GOING: STANDARD   DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 ACROPOLIS HANDICAP (£2,954: 2m 46yd) (13 runners)

1 2102 PRIVATE DESPATCH 12 (S) M Quinn 8-10-0 ... A Whelan 12
2 0403 PETOSKIN 28 (V,BF,CD,F,S) J Pearce 6-9-13 ... A Polli (5) 1
3 10-0 SERIOUS TRUST 11 (F) Mrs L Jewell 5-9-8 ... D Williams (7) 11
4 3243 TIME CAN TELL 14 (G) R Juckes 4-9-8 ... P Doe (5) 5
5 402- BEHIND THE SCENES 259 (S) C Cyzer 4-9-6 ... D Holland 3
6 4261 SIGNED AND SEALED 14 (B,CD) C Cyzer 4-8-13 ... J Weaver 10
7 0310 CARROLLS MARC 11 (CD,F,G) Pat Mitchell 10-8-9 ... Dean McKeown 7
8 0-20 DULAS BAY 5J M W Easterby 4-8-5 ... G Parkin 8
9 2300 AQUAVITA 23 J S Moore 4-8-4 ... P P Murphy (3) 4
10 300- ERLKING 59J (G) S Mellor 8-8-4 ... J Quinn 6
11 000- RAMBO TANGO 10J B Cambidge 4-7-10 ... N Adams 2
12 36F5 DUNSTON DURGAM 12 N Littmoden 4-7-10 ... A Nicholls (7) 9
13 0050 KARADENI 14 R Hollinshead 4-7-10 ... A McCarthy (5) 13

9-2 Dulas Bay, 6-1 Signed And Sealed, 7-1 Petoskin, Time Can Tell, Erlking, 8-1 Private Despatch, Behind The Scenes, 10-1 others.

7.30 TROJAN HORSE CLAIMING STAKES (£2,215: 7f) (12)

1 1315 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 45 (V,CD) P Evans 4-9-9 ... A McCarthy (5) 3
2 4612 ELITE HOPE 21 (BF,CD,G) N Tinkler 6-9-5 ... Dean McKeown 10
3 3002 U-NO-HARRY 12 (D,F) R Hollinshead 5-9-5 ... F Lynch 12
4 /00- CERBERA 14J (B) J Smith 9-9-4 ... V Slattery 6
5 000- SPLASHED 326 P Farrell 4-9-3 ... T Sprake 8
6 5-03 SMART GUEST 11 (F,G,S) D Shaw 6-9-2 ... R Brisland (7) 11
7 000- BARBRALLEN 29J Mrs L Jewell 6-9-0 ... D Williams (7) 2
8 50-0 FAIRLY SURE 21 (F) N Berry 5-8-13 ... N Carlisle 4
9 000- JINGOIST 290 (B,G) J A Harris 4-8-13 ... P Roberts (3) 9
10 6550 OVER THE MOON 7 N Littmoden 4-8-12 ... A Whelan 5
11 -005 DOUBLE APPEAL 14 (V) Mrs G Rees 3-8-2 ... A Mackay 1
12 0- FLIBBERTIGIBBET 327 Miss K Whitehouse 3-8-2 ... J Quinn 7

11-4 Elite Hope, 7-2 Italian Symphony, 4-1 U-No-Harry, 11-2 Smart Guest, 8-1 Fairly Sure, 10-1 Over The Moon, 20-1 Splashed, 25-1 others.

8.00 JOAN CHALK MEMORIAL HANDICAP (£3,720: 1m 1f 79yd) (11)

1 65-2 SPACE RACE 14 (S) C Cyzer 4-9-12 ... D Holland 11
2 0115 BE WARNED 12 (V,CD,F,G) J Pearce 7-9-12 ... A Polli (5) 6
3 -360 BARDON HILL BOY 3 (CD,F) B Hanbury 6-9-11 ... N Pollard (7) 5
4 1561 SUALTACH 14 (CD,F,S) R Hollinshead 5-9-10 ... A McCarthy (5) 1
5 000- SPARKY 59J (B,F) M W Easterby 4-9-7 ... G Parkin 4
6 2102 DANZINO 12 (V) Mrs N Macauley 3-8-13 ... P McCabe (3) 2
7 201- TALLULAH BELLE 172 (CD,F) N Littmoden 5-8-11 ... J Weaver 7
8 0203 MUTAHADETH 67 (B) D Shaw 4-8-6 ... J Fanning 10
9 0-65 LAW DANCER 11 (CD) T Mills 5-7-13 ... J Quinn 8
10 0340 SQUIRE'S OCCASION 25J (B) R Curtis 5-7-13 ... J Lowe 9
11 0611 SAKHAROV 7 (CD,F,G) P Eccles 9-7-12 ... R Mullen (5) 3

5-1 Sakharov, 6-1 Space Race, 13-2 Sualtach, 7-1 Be Warned, Tallulah Belle, Mutahadeth, 15-2 Bardon Hill Boy, 8-1 others.

8.30 BRINDLEY HONDA MAIDEN STAKES (£3,785: 1m 4f) (11)

1 60-0 SPARTAN HEARTBEAT 22 J O Shea 5-9-13 ... A McCarthy (5) 8
2 WINNING TOWN 16J P Farrell 5-9-13 ... T Sprake 5
3 44-0 DANKA 21 (V) K Comerford 4-9-12 ... M Fenton 10
4 54 REVOLUTION 10 R Williams 4-9-12 ... S Whitworth 3
5 5-0 SHIRTY 16 T Gill 4-9-12 ... N Carlisle 1
6 TELMAR 31J J Cullinan 4-9-12 ... V Slattery 11
7 WHAT THE DEVIL 79J J Smith 5-9-8 ... C Teague (3) 7
8 365- CHEEK TO CHEEK 199 C Cyzer 4-9-7 ... J Weaver 6
9 0/ RISSAGA 518 T Wall 4-9-7 ... G Parkin 4
10 003- GENERAL MONCK 170 B Hanbury 3-8-7 ... D Holland 2
11 PIPIJI Mrs G Rees 3-8-2 ... A Mackay 9

10-11 General Monck, 11-2 Revolution, Cheek To Cheek, 13-2 Spartan Heartbeat, 16-1 Pipiji, 20-1 Danka, Shirty, Telmar, 25-1 others.

9.00 PEGASUS SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £1,953: 5f) (7)

1 BIN ALMOOJID Miss K Whitehouse 8-11 ... J Quinn 5
2 3 CONSULTANT 11 (BF) N Littmoden 8-11 ... J Weaver 6
3 01 LADY CARBRON 11 (CD) J Berry 8-11 ... C Lowther (3) 4
4 WELSH ASSEMBLY G Enright 8-11 ... A McCarthy (5) 7
5 6 BEEANTEE 19 W G M Turner 8-6 ... D Sweeney (3) 2
6 MILINKY D Shaw 8-6 ... J Fanning 3
7 TARA K Ivory 8-6 ... Martin Dwyer 1

4-5 Lady Carbron, 5-2 Consultant, 10-1 Beeantee, Tara, 14-1 Milinky, 25-1 Welsh Assembly, 33-1 Bin Almoojid.

9.30 PARTHENON HANDICAP (£2,469: 5f) (11)

1 450- PIZZICATO 233 (CD,F) R Williams 4-10-0 ... D Griffiths (3) 10
2 2302 ALJAZ 11 (CD,S) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-12 ... P McCabe (3) 1
3 3236 RISE 'N SHINE 19 (BF,D) C Dyer 4-9-8 ... J Weaver 3
4 00-0 BICTON PARK 21 (V) K Comerford 4-9-3 ... C Carver (7) 5
5 U3-4 ROWLANDSONS STUD 21 K Comerford 5-9-2 ... M Fenton 8
6 0503 IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 9 (B,D,F,G) K Ivory 5-9-1 ... Martin Dwyer 2
7 005- CLANBLUE CHICK 159 J Berry 3-8-13 ... P Roberts (3) 9
8 4308 GENERAL EQUATION 32 (B,CD) J Balding 5-8-12 ... N Carlisle 11
9 6633 STATOYORK 11 (F) D Shaw 5-8-11 ... J Fanning 6
10 3420 RIVER ENSIGN 54 (G) W Brisbourne 5-8-11 ... A McCarthy (5) 7
11 0650 BOFFY 11 (CD,F,G) B Baugh 5-7-11 ... Iona Wands (5) 4

4-1 Aljaz, 9-2 Statoyork, 6-1 Pizzicato, Rise 'n Shine, 13-2 General Equation, 8-1 Ivory's Grab Hire, 10-1 Rowlandsons Stud, Clanblue Chick, 16-1 others.

BOXING

Hamed in no mood for lengthy struggle

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

TWO of boxing's most colourful characters, Naseem Hamed and Chris Eubank, vie for attention at the Nynex Arena, Manchester, tonight. Hamed defends his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight title against Wilfredo Vazquez, of Puerto Rico, while Eubank tries to become champion again by challenging Carl Thompson, of Manchester, for the WBO cruiserweight crown.

Hamed should make the bigger impression because he can keep the crowd in a high state of excitement by capping his spectacular entrance with a knockout. Eubank, on the other hand, will have to get down to serious work to outsmart Thompson.

Hamed's opponent is a former World Boxing Association (WBA) champion. He is very experienced but, at 37, securing his future financially is the most important consideration. When ordered by the WBA to defend against Antonio Cermeno, Vazquez preferred to go for the money that Frank Warren, the promoter, offered him to challenge Hamed, who says: "I'll stop him in two rounds. His time is gone, but mine is coming up."

Certainly, in his previous bout, against Genaro Rios, Vazquez looked weary and flat-footed. It is unlikely that he will survive the first big punch Hamed lands.

Eubank is superior to Thompson in every way except size. That, however, could prove crucial. Thompson hits harder than Joe Calzaghe and if the Welshman could floor Eubank, Thompson should be able to as well.

Herbie Hide's defence of his WBO heavyweight title against one Damon Reed, from Kansas, a little-known cruiserweight, only serves to confirm the view that some WBO titles are not worth holding.

TV: Sky Box Office 3, 9pm. Further information: 0990 800888

GOLF: IRISH VETERAN PRODUCES BRILLIANT ROUND TO LEAD CANNES OPEN

O'Connor brings experience to bear

FROM MEL WEBB
IN CANNES

THE young bucks strained to make a name for themselves in the second round of the Cannes Open yesterday, but found they were upstaged by a greybeard who was a professional golfer before some of them were born. Christy O'Connor Jr is, by a distance, the oldest man in the field, but his performance proved that there is no room for ageism on the PGA European Tour today.

O'Connor will pass the half-century mark on August 19, the day before the Smurfit European Open starts at the K Club, near Dublin. Before then, he has some valedictory calls to make around the golf courses of Europe as he prepares to start a second career as a player on the senior tours of Europe and the United States.

Lee Trevino it was who dubbed his fellow veterans "round-bellies", and O'Connor fits the description perfectly. His silhouette is comfortable rather than sleek, but the corporation he carries before him these days did not stop him from playing the golf of a man half his age.

He had a 64 to reach the halfway point in 136, good enough to lead the tournament by a shot from Santiago Luna, with Mark Davis and a trio of tyros — Stephen Allan, Pierre Fulke and David Higgins — a further stroke back.

PAUL SEVERN / ALLSPORT



Higgins, playing a long iron yesterday, gave best to a more senior Irishman

O'Connor may run out of steam over the weekend, but it is doubtful if anybody will assemble a better round than the one he produced yesterday. He had nine birdies, ten single putts and only 25 putts in all as he rekindled memories of that great day at The Belfry in 1989, when he hit the two-iron that brought Fred Couples to his knees in the key singles match on the final day of the Ryder Cup. The famous club has been missing, presumed dead, for years, since O'Connor's car was stolen in Newcastle in 1990.

Talking about the cherished club still makes O'Connor maudlin, but there were no negative thoughts in his head as he burnt a trail round the tricky Royal Mougins course, the greens of which the veteran Irishman compared to those at Augusta National.

Nobody with a scintilla of working grey matter would claim that Royal Mougins deserves to be mentioned in the same lifetime, let alone the same breath, as Augusta, but it was easy to understand what O'Connor was talking about. The greens here are heavily contoured and fast — put the ball above the hole with your approach and be prepared to traipse into three-putt country.

Only once was O'Connor ensnared. At the 9th, the wind that has bedevilled the entire tournament suddenly changed direction and blew his ball 20 yards past the hole and onto the top plateau of the two-tiered green. The resulting trio of putts brought about one of only two bogeys.

O'Connor says he is using his last few months as a fortysomething to keep in trim for his big adventure. He might last the pace this week: more likely, he will not. Whatever happens, it was pleasant to see the boys put in their place by an old master.

SCORES

EARLY LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS (GB and Ire unless stated). 136: C O'Connor Jr 72, 64. 137: S Luna (Sp) 69, 68. 138: P Fulke (Swe) 73, 65; D Higgins 69, 69; S Allan (Aus) 71, 67. 139: P Lonard (Aus) 68, 71. 140: P Price 74, 66; T Gillis (US) 73, 67. 141: J Singh (India) 67, 74; S Struver (Ger) 69, 72; J Lomas 71, 70; P Sjoland (Swe) 72, 69; A Sherborne 73, 68; S Webster 70, 71. 142: J Townsend (US) 70, 72; D Chopra (Swe) 69, 73; M Mouland 71, 71; D Lynn 67, 75; R Jacquelin (Fr) 69, 73; R Allenby (Aus) 67, 75.

HOCKEY

England sweep Wales aside

ENGLAND crushed Wales 6-1 in their opening match of the Four Nations Tournament at Southgate Hockey Centre (Sydney Friskin writes).

They opened the scoring when Giles converted a 14th minute short corner, but Wales responded nine minutes later with a goal from Hacker.

England, however, put more pressure on the Welsh defence and Wallis finished off a right wing move by driving a superb shot into the net. By half-time England had earned six short corners, one of which led to a penalty stroke, but Garcia put his shot over the top.

Garcia, however, made amends early in the second half by converting a short corner to put England 3-1 ahead and further goals followed from Wyatt, Giles and Woods.

Scotland had earlier recovered from a 2-0 deficit to beat France 4-2, Webster converting three short corners and Forsythe adding the fourth in the 63rd minute.

ENGLAND: D Luckes, J Wyatt, B Garrard, J Halls, W Waugh, D Woods, J Pidcock, J Lee, B Sharpe, R Garcia, N Thompson. Subs used: J Wallis, C Giles, M Peam.

WALES: C Ashcroft; P Edwards, M Williamson, A Carruthers, A Colclough, T Moore, D Hacker, O Griffith-Jones, I Hughes-Rowlands, R Markham, S Organ. Subs used: G Terrett, A Goodenough, G Egan.

Umpires: A Bustos (Spain) and A Mair (Scotland).

TENNIS

Henman lets chance slip

TIM HENMAN let slip a golden opportunity to win his third career title when he was beaten by Jan-Michael Gambill, of the United States, in the quarter-finals of the Japan Open in Tokyo yesterday (Julian Muscat writes).

Henman, the No 3 seed, found Gambill's unusual style difficult to counter. Gambill employs two hands on the racket on both wings, and Henman struggled to find a weakness in Gambill's armoury. He probed in vain, the American prevailing 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 to consign the Briton to a disappointing defeat.

"My problem was that I didn't execute the match properly," Henman said. "At times I can be a bit passive but you can't play well every day. It was a little bit patchy. I don't regularly play people who are so good on both sides. His [Gambill's] backhand is probably better, but he is dangerous from both sides."

Henman now journeys to Monte Carlo for the opening event in the seven-week European clay-court season, in which his record is poor. Greg Rusedski, the Great Britain No 1, also returns to action after a holiday. Pete Sampras has taken a wild card to play.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan provide first stiff test for Pendlebury

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AT ODDS of 100-1, John Pendlebury, the Halifax Blue Sox coach, did not bet on his side winning the JJB Super League. After two opening wins, possibly he regrets his decision, although a stern test comes tomorrow away to Wigan Warriors, where Pendlebury was on the coaching staff until 13 months ago.

"We've been fortunate in playing London Broncos and Huddersfield Giants, who have undergone plenty of personnel changes and have still not gelled," Pendlebury said. "Wigan will be totally different. If we're still unbeaten on Sunday night, it will be a genuine cause for optimism."

Halifax will miss Gavin Clinch, their injured Australian scrum half, who has scored three tries in two games. Chris Chester, the Great Britain Academy player, and Martin Moana form a new half-back pairing. Des Clark steps into the pack.

"Gavin's injury is a major blow," Pendlebury said. "We had 28 full-time professionals when I arrived here, but we've cut back to 22 to meet the salary-cap requirements, although John Bentley returns from rugby union at Rotherham next week. We finished seventh last year. Realistically, we will have done well if we can improve on that."

Pendlebury, a Challenge Cup final winner with Wigan in 1984, is making his first return to Central Park since his move to take over from Steve Simms at Halifax. It is a homecoming, too, for Kelvin Skerrett, who spent seven highly productive seasons in the Wigan front row before a move to Halifax last year. "Apart from Kel, most of their side are unknown to me, but they must be doing something right," John Monie, the Wigan coach, said.

Wigan, unbeaten in six league and cup matches in 1998, bring back Mark Bell, fully recovered from a hamstring strain, on the wing for Lee Gilmour. Simon Haughton, who missed the win at St Helens last week, should be fit after a shoulder injury to resume on the bench.

Hull Sharks, unfancied but also unbeaten, return tomorrow to Salford Reds, the scene last month of an embarrassing 41-10 beating in the Challenge Cup. The return from suspension of Jason Temu will bolster the Hull pack and Gary Lester, their impressive Australian stand-off half, is available after fears that a broken rib would keep him out for a lengthy period. He has actually sprung a rib cartilage.

Scott Martin, on the Salford bench for 28 of 34 appearances in two seasons, makes a rare start in the centre as Scott Naylor is sidelined by a shoulder injury.

London have Mark Carroll, Mat Toshack and Robbie Beazley back for the visit of Warrington Wolves tomorrow night, which has assumed a particular importance after two opening league defeats.

Tony Currie, the coach, returns from Australia next week after a family bereavement, and in his absence, Terry Matterson, who again prefers himself at hooker, needs to get the Broncos off the mark.

Warrington, badly beaten at home by Salford last week, also have to answer awkward questions from sceptical supporters. "We're not the Titanic going down," Darryl Van de Velde, the coach, said. "We're a team that needs time and match practice to get to know each other. We can and will turn it around."

St Helens, who have added Tommy Martyn to a growing injury list, encounter four former players — Jon Neil, Paul Loughlin, Danny Arnold and Phil Veivers — at Huddersfield, who will not want for incentive in trying to gain their first league win.

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325i conv 94L, 40k FSH, Blk/ Ivhr h/top, 17"M3 alloys, CD, alarm, £23,295. 0836 502222T

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This is the captain speaking: help me

Fasten your seatbelts and start praying: **Eve-Ann Prentice** makes the jump from piloting a small aircraft to trying to fly a passenger jet around a hangar

Remember those *Airport* disaster movies from the Seventies? This felt a bit like that. The TriStar jet was on approach to Prestwick airport at night and I was going to have to attempt to land it. As a newly qualified private pilot of single-engined light aircraft, this monster was way out of my capability.

The only other person in the front of the cockpit who knew anything about flying was Doug, the engineer, who had taken the co-pilot's seat. "Keep the wings level," he admonished as we descended through 4,000ft and the aircraft swung unsteadily from side to side. I wrestled with the controls in a vain attempt to line up with the runway lights ahead.

"I'll look after speed and flaps, you watch your height," he said as the aircraft pitched around in ungainly kangaroo hops, first climbing 400ft, then dropping 500ft as I tried to stay calm.

The engineer set up the instruments for our glide path into Prestwick. My task was to manoeuvre the aircraft so that a small ball rested on the ever-shifting cross-hairs on the artificial-horizon display, to ensure that we were on course.

But trying to keep the ball where it should be was like playing billiards in a tank filled with liquid paraffin. Move the control column a smidgeon forward and the ball drifted lazily down — and down and down and down. Try to correct it by moving the column back, and the ball slowly ceased its descent and sluggardly began to rise — and rise and rise. The overall effect was that the aircraft was hopping all over the sky.

"You're flying it as if it were a PA 28," said the engineer, referring to the single-engined plane I am more used to. Within minutes we were on final approach. The lights on either side of the runway, known as Vasis — Visual Approach Slope Indicators — shine red and white to show whether you are too low, high or on course. Now they looked like a traffic-light discotheque as we rollercoastered towards the runway threshold.

Seconds later, I raised the nose — and alarms sounded as the speed plummeted to 120 knots, when it should have been at 140 knots. Then we were miraculously down.

In a small aircraft, you raise the control column slightly back on landing, to prevent undue strain on the nose wheel. "Put the nose forward," ordered the engineer as we careered from side to side down the runway's centre line. "I'll look after the brakes."

Then it was all over. No one was hurt and there were broad beams from the faces in the back. But they were grins of pity and derision. For the flight had taken place on one of the flight simulators used to train airline pilots.

And any dreams I might have harboured of piloting a heavy jet, or of saving the day in the fanciful event of an airline crew becoming incapacitated while I was on board, evaporated instantly.

The simulator is one of four belonging to European Aviation, which operates a fleet of BAC 111s from its base at Bournemouth airport.

The company, founded in 1990 by Australian entrepreneur Paul Stoddart, hires its aircraft out to other carriers including Ryanair, British Airways, Easyjet and AB Airlines. It helps to train pilots from all over the world, and from carriers such as British Airways. The four simulators — emulating two TriStars, a BAC 111 and a Boeing 727 — are an integral part of training. They are also used to carry out the regular checks required by law on the capabilities of trained pilots, including European Aviation's own complement of 60.

> 'I wrestled with the controls in a vain attempt to line up with the runway'

One of the most astonishing aspects of the simulators is that the engineers who keep a constant vigil over the complex machinery are at least as competent at handling the "flights" as many of the pilots.

The simulators cost more than £250 an hour to use, far less than the thousands of pounds an hour to run a real jet, and trainee pilots need around 40 hours simulator time. Working pilots undergo two four-hour sessions every six months to maintain their licences.

So can you damage a simulator by "flying" it badly? "They need constant care and nurture and they are serviced every day. You may lose it for half an hour or so if you go to extremities," says European Aviation's chief training captain, Graham Jones. "More often you get problems with the computers and the software."

The engineers are good, says captain Jones, but it is still different from flying the real thing. "The simulator engineers fly them each day. They all have this crazy enthusiasm for aviation and they are quite skilful, but the simulators are hydraulics-driven. I would like to take Doug airborne."

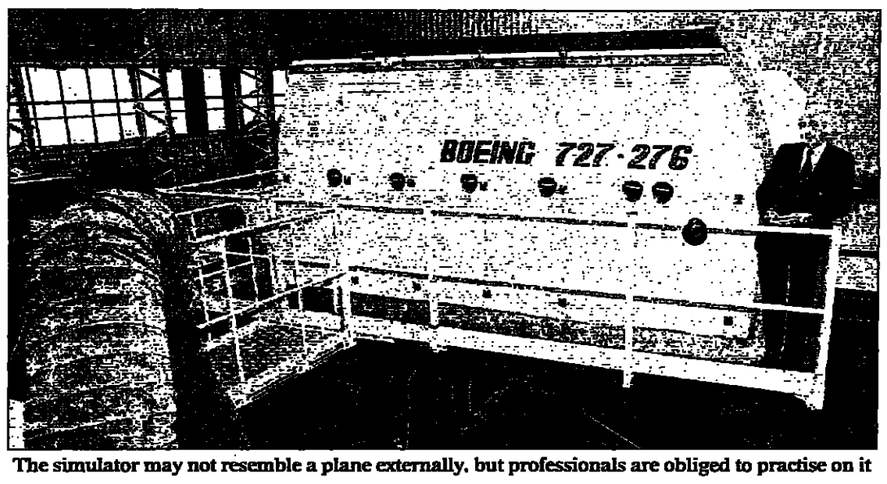
Captain Jones, who has more than 9,000 hours' flying experience, including about 1,000 on simulators, then took me for a few circuits in a BAC 111 simulator and, after allowing me to make a wobbly landing and take-off, showed me how the professionals can do it, with a low, fast sweep along the runway at Birmingham airport.

Outside on the tarmac at the real-life Bournemouth airport, aircraft belonging to European Aviation's fleet are being coaxed in hangars or coming and going, earning their keep. The fleet includes a specially kitted-out 50-seat BAC 111 which is used for VIP trips. Those who have chartered the aircraft include Eric Clapton, Ruby Wax and Tom Hanks. The company is also a keen supporter of Formula One racing, being a part-sponsor of the Tyrrell team, and the 50-seat jet is regularly used to ferry the team and its guests to world championship rounds in Europe.

On these occasions, though, the pilots have mastered the intricacies of the infernal simulators, and can keep the aircraft's wings as level as their heads.



Eve-Ann Prentice at the controls of European Aviation's TriStar simulator: controlling the machine proved way out of her league



The simulator may not resemble a plane externally, but professionals are obliged to practise on it

COMPETITION

Win a trip to Lisbon

LEADING specialist tour operator, Crystal Holidays, together with AB Airlines is offering four lucky *Times* readers the chance to fly to Lisbon to experience Expo '98.

The prize will enable them to spend three nights in the fascinating Portuguese capital of Lisbon, staying in one of Crystal's top hotels.

Lisbon, with its long seafaring history, is a lively and vibrant city that boasts modern shops and warm and friendly people.

A stay here is not complete without a stroll around the Alfama district, the delightful old quarter. Afterwards you can take a look at St George's Castle, then perhaps take a colourful tram for the best view of the city.

You will find excellent leatherwork and handpainted tiles and ceramics to buy as souvenirs that will ensure you do not forget your break.

And you can finish off the day at one of Lisbon's many excellent restaurants: seafood is, naturally, a speciality together with the exceptional

Crystal

desserts — and there are also pastries galore.

Lisbon will ring with the sounds of the last World Exposition of the 20th century, a historic moment to savour. The theme for this Expo is: "The oceans, a heritage for the future."

It is a memorable and unique event that features an array of thematic pavilions and international areas, together with open-air performances. Every night at around 11.30, Expo '98 will be brought alive by a superb multimedia show that will fill the riverside dock with light, sound, laser, fireworks and water features.

ALL YOU need to do to enter the competition is answer the following question, and send your answers on a postcard to Expo Competition, Go, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive by April 25: ***Approximately how much does a fully laden AB Airlines BAC 111 weigh?***

The holiday prize is subject to availability, and excludes UK Bank Holidays. The winners will have to take their holiday between May and September 1998. Usual *Times* rules and conditions apply.

Specialist tour operator Crystal Cities offers more than 70 of the world's most exciting cities including Paris, Amsterdam and Barcelona, and more unusual choices such as Marrakesh.

Short breaks to Lisbon start at £219 per person for two nights, and there is a choice of six hotels to suit all budgets. For the Lisbon Expo, Crystal Cities can arrange a choice of entry tickets, either one-day or three-day, or an evening pass for entry after 8pm.

For a free Crystal Cities colour brochure, telephone 01235 824 324 (24 hours), for reservations and advice, call now on 0181-241 5040 (seven days). AB Airlines reservations are on: 0800 458 811.

Eve-Ann Prentice takes a cockpit seat in a Lisbon-bound jet to find the glamour never takes off: instead it is work, work and more work for the crew



Strap 'em in: the crew are kept continually busy, while the passengers sit oblivious

Landed with a tough job

The safety demonstration aboard the airliner is nothing if not blunt. "There is an oxygen mask and a rope to use to climb out of the window," says the captain. "There are also smoke goggles underneath the seat, all in the unlikely event of . . . yeah?"

There is no alcohol, and you must eat from a plastic tray teetering on your lap alongside a mound of paperwork that must be attended to. Furthermore, you only get to eat whatever the captain does not want.

Yet thousands of jet-setters travel the world like this every day and they never complain. Indeed, they have spent years training obsessively for the chance to travel in less than first-class comfort. They are the men and women who act as co-pilots for the world's airlines.

Having undergone a stint in a flight simulator, I was given the chance to sit in the cockpit along with captain Paul De Clerck on an AB Airlines flight from Gatwick to Lisbon. Many passengers get the chance to pop in to the flight deck for a few minutes, but this gives little sense of the workload, often intense concentration, and less than palatial working environment for what is seen as one of the world's most glamorous occupations.

After numerous checks, and a delayed take-off slot, we line up on runway 26, lights either side blazing a trail for us into the distance.

Seconds later, on full power, the captain calls "Rotate," and the BAC 111, 43 tons when fully loaded with fuel and passengers, rolls back on its haunches and heads for the wide grey yonder. A drizzly murk hangs over southeast England, but at just over 3,000 feet we are free of its pall and climb into a flawlessly azure sky.

"The hardest bit is the London area because of all the traffic," says Belgian-born De Clerck after completing all of the numerous after-take-off checks, including ensuring that the undercarriage has been safely tucked away for the flight, that the autopilot has been engaged and that fuel is being used safely and efficiently.

He and his co-pilot, Jonathan Willis, are almost constantly absorbed with myriad calculations of temperatures and pressures inside and outside the aircraft, checking en route the radio frequencies and weather, plotting headings and ensuring that we will be able to reach other airports should we have to alter our plans and divert from Lisbon for any reason.

Suddenly, well inside Spanish territory, the businesslike exchanges between aircrews and air traffic controllers is interrupted. "We hope you are all enjoying your flight," says the beguilingly efficient voice of another captain from out there somewhere. "Anna-Marie will be looking after everyone in the business section, and Luis is there to look after your needs in the rear section. Lunch will soon be . . ."

"Break . . . break . . ." the air traffic controller tries to cut into the pilot's spiel as he unwittingly — and at length — continues what he obviously assumes to be an onboard intercom announcement to his passengers, but which is in fact being inadvertently and relentlessly broadcast to the aviation world at large.

The error causes wry smiles as De Clerck points out the plume of white jet trail which marks the broadcasting pilot's passage across the sky ahead of us. It was an amusing moment for us, but the mistake blocked transmissions for anyone else in the area and could have had serious consequences for anyone that the air traffic controllers wanted to warn of approaching aircraft.

Such are the realities of life in a jet cockpit that go unsuspected among the lunching passengers just behind the partition. There are, as might be expected, moments of banter — though these are far rarer than might be expected, the job of checking and flying the aircraft occupies the vast majority of the pilot and co-pilot's time.

"If it doesn't have a kitchen and a khazi, it shouldn't be in the air," says one of the crew when harking back to his early flying days training in single-engined aircraft. "Nowadays," he then told me, "We suffer from AIDS — aviation-induced divorce syndrome."

And while passengers in the back are likely to hear the polite exhortation: "Please return to your seats as the captain has turned on the fasten-seatbelt signs in preparation for landing," what the captain may well be saying is: "Let's strap em in!"

AB Airlines expects a surge in business in the next few months on its daily scheduled service to Lisbon, because Expo 98 is being held in the city. Readers can win a chance to fly with the airline and spend a long weekend at the massive exhibition (see competition panel, above).

Return flights with AB Airlines to Lisbon cost from £99 to £399. The airline also has scheduled flights from London Stansted to Shannon, Birmingham and Berlin.

Complaints about Top Gear's endorsement of fast cars miss the point: it is TV programmes like Police, Camera Action! that glamorise lethal driving

Keep joyriders out of the living room

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



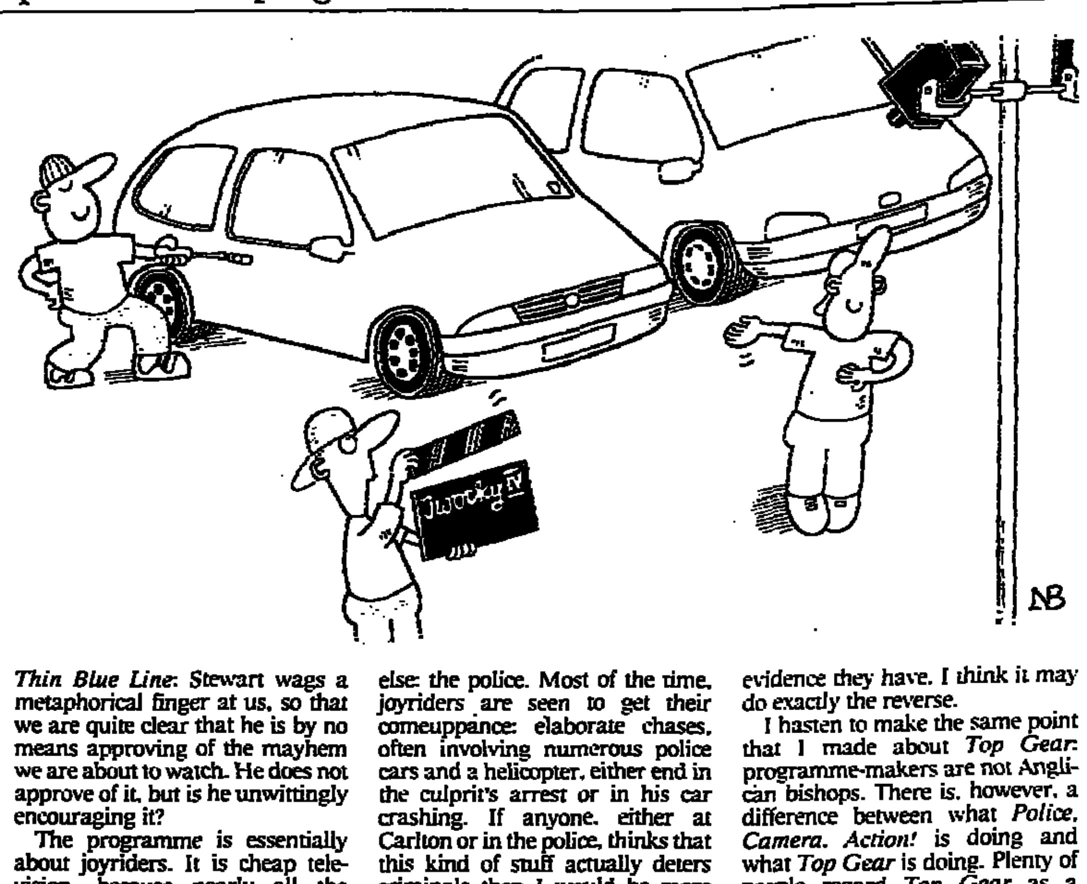
Peter Barnard

Call an ideas meeting at a television company, and the leaden gloom associated with people forced to think too early in the morning will quickly lift if you mention cars. Buying them, repairing them, living with them, living without them, driving them legally, driving them illegally: all these have put car shows in the ratings and look like continuing to do so, whatever victories are notched up by cycling fascists and walking bores. But are these programmes doing more harm than good?

Top Gear is the doyen. The show attracts around four million viewers, which easily puts it in the top six of programmes on channels outside of BBC1 and ITV. *Top Gear* often attracts more viewers than *Gardeners' World*, the outlet for that other British obsession. Recently the Broadcasting Standards Council had a complaint from a viewer who accused *Top Gear* of encouraging people to drive too quickly: this is being dealt with under the BSC's "taste and decency" provisions and an adjudication is eagerly awaited.

My own adjudication is that the complainer should get a life: *Top Gear* is supposed to be about cars and some cars are fast. I expect Jeremy Clarkson to entertain me and inform me (in that order) but I am not interested in hearing Clarkson preach a sermon: if I want pompous moralising there is always David Starkey on the steam radio. The notion that *Top Gear* ought to test a new Ferrari by seeing how it performs as a supermarket shuttle is absurd.

Of course it is perfectly legitimate to raise questions about the effect on the audience, especially younger members of the audience, of television car programmes. *Police, Camera, Action!*, which is made by Carlton for the ITV network, attracted 12 million viewers during its last series and will be back later in the year. Alastair Stewart presents the show in the rather pompous manner of the Rowan Atkinson character in *The Thin Blue Line*: Stewart wags a metaphorical finger at us, so that we are quite clear that he is by no means approving of the mayhem we are about to watch. He does not approve of it, but is he unwittingly encouraging it?



The programme is essentially about joyriders. It is cheap television, because nearly all the footage has been shot by someone else: the police. Most of the time, joyriders are seen to get their comeuppance: elaborate chases, often involving numerous police cars and a helicopter, either end in the culprit's arrest or in his car crashing. If anyone, either at Carlton or in the police, thinks that this kind of stuff actually deters criminals then I would be more than happy to publish whatever evidence they have. I think it may do exactly the reverse.

I hasten to make the same point that I made about *Top Gear*: programme-makers are not Anglican bishops. There is, however, a difference between what *Police, Camera, Action!* is doing and what *Top Gear* is doing. Plenty of people regard *Top Gear* as a source of information about cars, whereas *Police, Camera, Action!* is entertainment, pure and simple. True, it reflects a social phenomenon, but that could be covered in one series. This programme has been running for four years in peak time and the only reason is that a lot of people watch it.

I cannot prove that the programme encourages joyriders. I do know that Carlton would be horrified to think that it did. But I also know that if I was a joyrider I would watch the programme. And I would not be put off by the fact that criminals get caught or end up being hauled out of smashed cars. For one thing, that would probably add to my adrenalin rush.

These are difficult areas. Speed, actual and implied, is used on television in relation to cars all the time, from Formula One to the elegant Ford commercial for the Mondeo, based on Steve McQueen's rush through San Francisco's streets in the film *Bullitt*. That might have some sensitive souls saying that it encourages fast urban driving: I would regard that accusation as daft. The excellent ITV coverage of Formula One is another obvious exception, for this is legitimate sport. But television needs to take care in its treatment of the lethal weapon that is the motor car.

YOUNG DRIVER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

FORTY young motorists will get a taste of Silverstone tomorrow when they compete for the title of Young Driver of the Year. They will try the track's skid-control car, face a written test, go for a one-hour road drive with a police examiner and complete a tight manoeuvring course.

The prizes, including a trip to this year's British Grand Prix and £500 towards motor insurance, are incentive enough. But the competition was inspired by tragedy, and it aims to improve road safety and driving standards among 17 to 24-year-olds. This age group accounts for 20 per cent of licence holders but is in 40 per cent of all personal injury accidents.

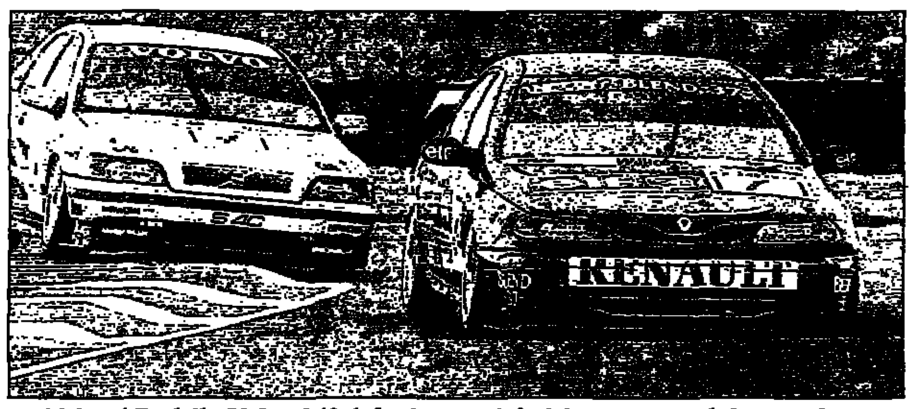
The competition, now in its sixth year, is run by the Catherine Kenyon Trust, set up by Edward and Patricia Kenyon of Welwyn, Hertfordshire, following the death in 1992 of their 27-year-old daughter Catherine. Her car was swept off the road by a sportscar driven by a 21-year-old man who had been racing a motorbike at speeds well above the limit. He was jailed for nine months.



Catherine Kenyon: death started safety campaign

The idea of the trust and the competition grew from the concern of the Kenyons and of the investigating officer, PC Gary Baldwin, that Catherine should not have died in vain. Its chief sponsor is the Silverstone driving centre and much of the preparation is done by Thames Valley Police, who provide ten examiners. Other supporters include CIS Co-operative Insurance, who offer two £500 prizes, the Jordan grand prix team, Autoglym, Mintex and Ford, who will this year be providing the cars for the final.

The competition is rapidly expanding from a local to a national event with entrants coming from Manchester and Plymouth for the final.



Rickard Rydell's Volvo S40, left, chases Alain Menu's Renault in round two

VOLVO VICTORIOUS

THE VOLVO S40, which carries the *Times* masthead on its side, made a cracking start to the new season of the British Touring Car Championship at Thruxton last weekend with Rickard Rydell winning round one, the 16-lap sprint race, and coming second in round two, the 32-lap feature race which introduced pitstops to this form of racing to add still more excitement to the series.

So Rydell, with 30 points, holds an eight-point lead in the driver's championship over Alain Menu, the reigning champion who won round two in his Renault Laguna, while Volvo and Renault are equal on 27 points in the manufacturers' championship.

The racing is closer than ever this year. Watch this space for a chance to win VIP trips with the Volvo team to later rounds.

CLASSIC SHOW OFFER

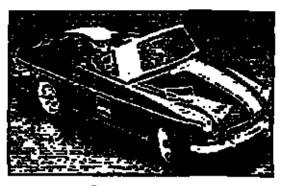
If you want to buy a Lagonda, or convert your old Mini to run on unleaded, keep May Day weekend free.

On May 2, 3 and 4, the International Classic Motor Show is at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, and today readers of *Go* can win 20 pairs of tickets and a top prize of a radio-controlled model of the MGB Roadster, worth more than £200. The model is being offered by Moss International, the classic equipment suppliers.

The show is open from 9.30am-5.30pm each day. Admission is £8 for adults, £3 for children. The ticket hotline is 0121 767 4767.

Our first prize includes two show tickets. There are six runners-up prizes of a subscription to *Classic and Sportscar* magazine plus two tickets, and 13 other pairs of tickets to be won. To enter, answer this question: What year was the first Porsche made? Send your answer with your name and address to: Classic Contest; Go, *The Times*, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. Closing date, April 24: usual rules apply.

THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW



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Z3 1.8, LHD, 8,000 miles, Sept 97, Black/black interior, Alloys, Twin airbags, CD, Removable rack. £16,500. 01628 826895.

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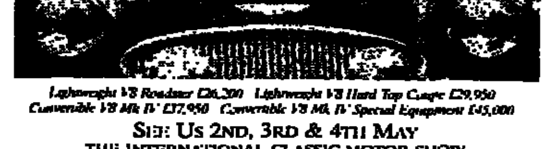
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DA 9778	1,800	FRY 22	4,000	350 KMF	1,600	RJB 750	800
944 DBC	1,200	GIL 59	2,500	KVG 811A	500	RON 858	3,000
DBR 349	1,800	600 GJH	3,200	LAZ 40	1,500	9439 RW	1,800
2265 DD	1,300	GJK 88	2,400	469 LJ	1,500	SAD 196	1,800
DFM 713	1,800	GJK 888	1,400	LN 9705	1,800	6666 SM	5,000
329 DMD	2,000	GSB 55Y	600	LNJ 199	800	749 SMD	1,800
2477 DP	1,400	2 GU	POA	12 MA	6,000	TAH 53	2,600
DS 66	11,000	H4 RLD	600	M13 NSA	600	G1 USA	2,500
DS 7941	1,400	HAZ 8	2,200	27 MHN	1,200	VER 558	1,200
8800 E	2,000	HIL 1858	1,000	MUN 802	1,200	32 YG	2,000

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94 M E320 Cabriolet Pearl Blue/Blue Leather, Auto, EFS, HFS ...32T £41,950
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97 R SL280 Vivianite/Grey Leather, Auto, Climate, Elec. Sts, CC ...9T £56,950
97 P SL320 B.Silver/Black Leather, Auto, Climate, Electric Seats ..9T £59,950
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93 L SL280 Metallic Silver with Black Leather, Automatic, Electric Front Seats, Compact Disc System £42,995
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97 P C280 Sport Estate Azure Blue Metallic, Cloth Interior, 5 Speed Auto, Air Conditioning, Alloys, Front Armrest £24,995
97 R C250 Turbo D. Elegance Estate Smoke Silver with Cloth, Auto, Air Conditioning, Alloys, Latest Model £27,995
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95N C36 Brilliant Silver/Black Leather, Electric Heated Front Seats, Air Conditioning, ASR, Electric Sunroof £33,950
97R E220 Cabriolet Brilliant Silver/Grey Leather, Heated Front Seats, Air Conditioning, only 2,300 miles £45,950
93L 500SEC Brilliant Silver/Grey Leather, 8 Hole Alloys, Electric Heated Front Seats with Memory, Heated Rear Seats, Climate Control, Electric Roller Blind, only 3,500 miles £44,950
91H 560 SEC Smoke Silver/Mushroom Leather, Climate Control, ASR, Elec. Htd Seats with Memory, Elec. Roller Blind, only 31,000 miles £28,950
97R CL420 Azurite Blue/Grey Leather, Alloy Wheels, Cruise Control, Htd Sts, Front Seats - Electric/Memory, 9,500 miles, VAT Q £65,950
94L SL280 Blue Black/Mushroom Leather, 8 Hole Alloys, Rear Seat £39,950
93L 300SL 24v Blue Black/Mushroom Leather, Rr.Seat, AC, ASR, 8HA £42,950
97P SL320 Green Black/Mushroom Leather, AMG Suspension, Wheels + Bodykit, Leather and Wood Steering Wheel, 5 Spd Automatic, Cruise Control, Glass Hardtop £64,950
97R SL320 Brilliant Silver/Black Leather, Climate Control, Rear Seat, Cruise Control, only 3,500 miles £62,950
89F 420SL Diamond Blue/Mushroom Leather, Rear Child Seat, A Pristine Example, Only 1,000 miles from new £30,950
89G 420SL Signal Red/Mushroom Leather, Rear Seat £28,950
91H 500SL Brilliant Silver/Black Leather, Air Conditioning, Rear Seat, ASR, Adaptive Damping, Htd Front Seats, only 25,000 miles £42,950
96N SL500 Tourmaline Green/Mushroom Leather, 8 Hole Alloys, Cruise Control, 5 Speed Auto, Climate Control, Rear Seat £64,950
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97R C230 Kompressor Sport (Facelift) G/Black, sport seats, a/c, 16" alloys, cbd .12T £26,995
97P C230 Sport B/Silver, grey hide, 5sp 'A', a/c, g/roof, 17" AMG, E'gst sts, CD 11T £27,995
97R C280 Sport (Facelift) Aquamarine, spt sts, 5sp 'A', c/c, g/roof, 16" alloys 9T £26,995
97R C280 Sport Est Vivianite, spt sts, 5sp 'A', c/c, g/roof, 16" alloys, cbd 9T £29,995
97R C280 ELE (Facelift) B/Silver, black hide, 5sp 'A', c/c, a/c, b/l sts ...13T £32,995
97R C180 ELE (Facelift) Vivianite, black cloth, 5sp 'A', c/c, g/roof, alloys ...11T £23,995
93K 320 AMG Coupe B/black, m/r hide, auto, 8h, a/con, AMG kit ...22T £25,995
97P E320 24V ELE Azurite, grey hide, 5sp 'A', c/c, a/c, t/m hide ...18T £34,995
97P E280 AMG ELE Tourmaline, m/room hide, 5sp 'A', a/c, TOTAL SPEC AMG .7T £38,995
96P E280 ELE Azurite, grey, 5sp 'A', c/c, a/con, ETS, alloys, c/g, t/seat .11T £28,995
89G 300SL 24V Almandine, m/room hide, 'A', c/seat, m/l seats, h/ww, c/seat 39T £31,995
96N SL280 24V (Facelift) Smoke, m/r hide, 5sp 'A', climate, c/seat, 8h only 8T £48,995
96N SL280 24V (Facelift) Tourmaline, m/r hide, 'A', c/c, climate, c/seat, 8h .9T £48,495
93L E320 24V Cabriolet Bornite, m/r hide, 5sp 'A', a/c, 8h, h/ww 33T £38,995
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97R C230 Kompressor Man Smoke Silver/Mush Lthr, Clim, 2 x Elec Sts .2T £26,995
98R C250 Turbo Diesel Auto Silver/Grey Cloth, A/C, E/W, C/C 4T £25,995
97R C280 AMG Sport Auto Silver/Black Leather, A/C, EDS, 17" Alloys .8T £38,995
97P E200 Classic Auto White, Blue tex, E/W, R/ST 38T £22,995
95N E200 Estate Auto Blue/Cloth, 7 Seat, ESR, EW x 4 ......43T £19,995
97R E200 Auto Avantgarde Ruby/Black Cloth, A/C, AMG Alloys 6T £26,995
97R E200 Elegance Auto Azurite/Grey Cloth A/C, Int. Child Seat 12T £29,995
96N E220 Cabriolet Ruby/Mushroom Lthr, 8 Alloys, HLW 27T £34,995
96P E230 Avantgarde Auto Violane/Cloth, ESR, AMG Alloys 36T £26,995
97P E230 Elegance Estate Auto Green/Cloth, A/C, 7 Seats 8T £33,995
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94L E300 Diesel Estate Pearl Blue/Blue Cloth, A/C, R/Child Seat, ESR 68T £19,995
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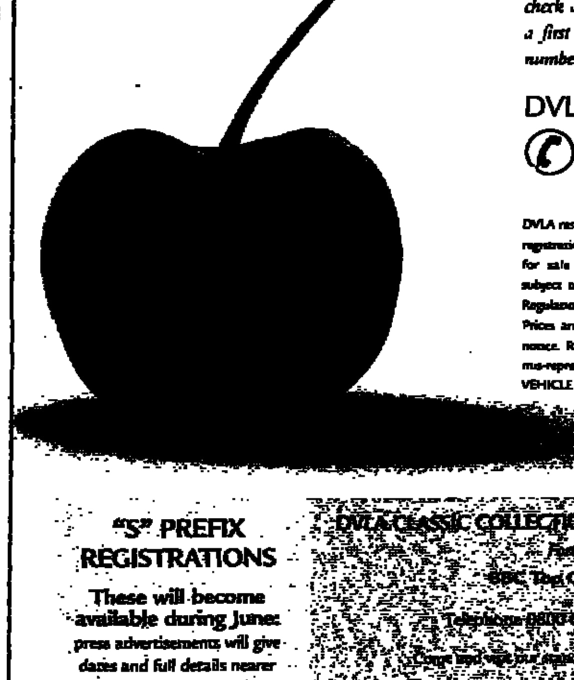
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94L VW GOLF 2.0 GTI 16V 3DR Indian Red, 56,000 miles, FSH, Sunroof, Alloy Wheels, Thatcham Alarm £10995
97P VW GOLF GTI 8 VALVE 5DR Dragon Green, 11,000 miles, ABS, Power Steering, Electric Sunroof £14795
96P VW GOLF GTI COLOUR CONCEPT 3DR Jazz Blue, Full Leather, 9,000 miles, Sunroof £14995
97R VW GOLF 1.8 90BHP CABRIOLET 8,000 miles, Jade Green, Power Hood, Alloy Wheels £16995
97R VW PASSAT 1.9 90BHP TDI Alloys, Tornado Red, 8,000 miles, Sunroof £15495
97P VW PASSAT 110 TDI SPORT Air Con, Colorado Red, 24,000 miles, Alloys £16995
97R VW PASSAT 1.8 SPORT AUTO Windsor Blue, 5,000 miles £17995
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92J VW CORRADO G60 Pearl Green, 60,000 miles, 2 Owners, FSH, ABS, Sunroof, E/W, Alloys £9995
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Projected Funds				
UK Safeguard	141.85	151.17	-0.95	
Do NAV to Mar 20	140.18	140.18		
UK Equity Safeguard	112.57	120.38†	-0.82	2.02
Do NAV to Mar 20	110.81	110.81		
US Eqy Safeguard	95.01	100.81	-0.27	
Cash	958.43	983.22	+1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	422.90	449.90	-8.90	1.43
UK Small Cos	94.91	101.50	-0.18	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	113.19	121.05	-0.04	1.89
Geared UK Index	2749.71	2902.82†	-95.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	85.21	88.34	+0.02	6.32
Monthly Inc	45.50	48.63†	-0.20	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	324.30	344.00	-2.40	
American Strat	246.80	264.01	+6.24	
JG US Index	2592.72	2731.78	-22.00	4.00
European Gen	404.60	428.90	-7.80	0.08
European Strat	172.40	184.37	+1.14	
Japan Gen	98.71	104.70	-1.80	
Asia Pacific	64.96	69.44	-0.91	1.09
Pacific Strat	100.48	107.45	-2.88	
Greater China	196.37	210.01	-3.83	
Latin America	105.56	112.89	-1.45	
Intl Growth	181.80	194.43	-1.64	0.11
Balanced Exempt	182.40	189.70		2.14
Global Strategy	50.70	54.21	+1.29	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	971.60	1032.00	-20.00	2.21
General Inc	788.00	837.70	-14.70	2.21
UK Growth Acc	666.80	709.30	-14.10	2.21
UK Growth Inc	418.30	444.90	-8.80	2.21
Higher Inc Acc #	1264.00	1344.00	-20.00	4.13
Higher Inc Inc #	637.70	678.40	-9.90	4.13
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	241.20	254.60	-0.20	5.55
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	97.99	103.40	-0.10	5.55
Nth America	467.30	497.70	-7.30	
Europe	570.10	608.40	-1.50	0.47
Brit Excell	132.30	140.60	-2.80	2.05
Brit Fndmtls Acc	168.40	179.10	-1.70	3.94
Brit Fndmtls Inc	106.60	113.30	-1.00	3.94
Global Opps	132.80	141.20	-3.10	0.22
Balanced Acc	81.92	87.14	-1.15	2.14
Balanced Inc	74.26	79.00	-1.05	2.14
Japan Acc	31.86	33.89	-0.87	
Pac Basin Acc	286.20	304.40	-9.60	2.19
AXA SUN LIFE FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0117 989 9000				
Discretionary	69.67	74.12	-0.05	
UK Income Inc	88.17	93.77	-1.20	2.14
Extra Inc Inc #	41.98	44.35	-0.26	6.03
High Yld Inc	128.30	136.50	-1.80	3.01
Inc & Gth Inc	119.90	127.40	-1.50	2.29
UK Smaller Cos	49.73	52.90	-0.13	1.71
Pacific Gth Port	34.78	37.00	-1.21	0.82
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	149.20	157.30†	-0.10	5.68
High Inc Equity	247.50	264.70†	-4.00	3.96
Worldwide Bond	249.10	265.40	-1.50	3.69
American Growth	578.10	617.40†	-5.80	0.22
Asian Pacific	223.90	239.50	-6.30	0.52
Assets & Earnings	398.50	426.20	-7.10	2.40
Euro Capital Acc	294.80	315.30	-0.20	0.25
Extra Inc	43.99	46.80†	-0.53	8.93
General	360.30	383.30†	-6.30	2.52
Global Opps	84.71	90.12	-0.76	0.36
Japan	73.59	78.71	-2.00	
Managed Inc	56.15	59.73†	-0.72	4.27
Mastertrust	205.30	219.60	-2.80	1.09
US Emerging Cos	240.60	257.30	+0.90	
Ethical	105.40	112.10	-0.70	1.63
International	157.20	167.20	-0.60	0.58
Dividend & Growth	91.97	97.84†	-1.42	3.99
Global Gwth & Sec	80.50	85.89	+0.17	2.03
Latin America	78.67	83.69	-1.21	0.80
Capital Reserve	156.40	156.50	-0.10	4.47
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	130.80	139.10	-2.60	1.64
Equity Income #	180.10	191.50	-3.50	3.34
Extra Income #	332.90	353.80	-3.70	4.32
Smaller Cos	111.60	118.70†	+0.20	1.82
International	147.30	156.60†	-2.70	0.71
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD				
Enq: 0345 886 868 Dlg: 0800 833 580				
Amer Opp Acc	408.49	429.79	-1.24	
Emg Mkts Inc	62.44	66.06	+0.13	
Ethical Inc	95.32	101.91	-0.20	0.62
Euro Gwth Acc	142.84	149.96	+0.37	
Euro Spec Opp Acc	148.72	157.37	+3.69	
Extra Inc Inc	250.62	264.49†	-2.00	3.59
Extra Inc Acc	344.85	363.95	-2.74	3.59
FE Emg Econ	79.49	84.11	-2.03	0.70
Fixed Int Inc #	30.60	32.11	+0.15	7.45
Frontier Mkt Inc	81.38	86.11	+3.04	
Fund Of Inv Inc #	223.07	236.04†	-0.06	8.35
Fund Of Inv Acc	482.89	510.98	-0.14	8.35
Gilt Inc Inc #	51.20	53.42†	-0.01	6.44
Global Bond Inc	40.64	42.43	-0.21	4.69
Global Inc Inc	33.89	35.67	-0.17	3.35
Global Inc Acc	52.09	54.83	-0.25	3.35
High Inc Inc	186.23	197.06†	-5.94	3.37
High Inc Acc	251.13	265.73	-3.69	3.37
Japan Inc	139.73	147.85	-0.95	
Latin Amer Inc	68.69	72.68	-0.82	
Master Inc Inc	69.37	73.39†	+0.12	2.35
Master Gwth Inc	64.31	68.04†	+0.09	0.34
North Amer Inc	280.51	295.17	-6.02	
North Amer Acc	280.65	295.52	-6.03	
Pacific Inc	55.61	58.83†	-1.85	0.19
Prop Share Inc	100.73	106.60	-0.47	0.93
Recovery Inc	118.00	124.86	-0.87	1.31
Recovery Acc	134.14	141.94	-0.99	1.31
Special Sit Inc	191.00	202.11	+0.41	0.87
Special Sit Acc	216.33	228.91	+0.46	0.87
Tech Inc	869.22	914.96	+4.15	
Tech Acc	869.22	914.96	+4.15	
UK Blue Chip Inc	129.89	136.36	-0.64	2.20
UK Blue Chip Acc	156.36	164.15	-1.02	2.20
Uk Emg Co Inc	86.56	93.57	+1.16	0.66
UK Gwth Inc	78.11	82.20†	-1.47	0.88
World Port Inc #	100.18	106.00	-1.15	1.80
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2768.00	2875.00	-10.00	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Resdl Property #	109.10	116.00	+0.50	5.50
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	116.67	123.79†	-0.03	1.60
Income Builder Inc	108.39	115.31	-1.32	2.85
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Concord Oul Pens	158.40	164.50	+2.60	
Foundn Pensl Pens	92.22	95.81	+1.49	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	493.20	523.30	+3.40	..
Bond	124.00	130.40†		6.30
Brit Smlr Cos	120.60	128.30	+0.20	1.81
Europe	435.70	462.30	+0.60	..
Euro Smlr Cos	144.70	154.40	+0.90	0.20
High Income #	76.93	81.84	-0.69	4.92
Income	473.50	503.70†	-3.20	3.41
Japan	264.70	280.90	+0.20	
Latin American	109.10	116.10	-1.10	
Pacific	77.07	81.99	-2.91	1.21
UK Smll Cos	71.91	76.50	+0.28	0.90
Japanese Sm Cos	455.60	489.70	+7.80	
Mngd Fd	267.40	283.70†	-3.50	2.12
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Ocean	470.40	497.40	-0.40	0.70
Capital Gwth	185.70	196.40	-1.20	2.14
Wwide Opps	261.00	278.00	-0.30	0.79
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	100.30	100.30†	+0.10	6.77
Cash Acc	133.60	133.60	+0.10	6.77
Income #	808.40	860.20	-12.90	3.44
Income Builder #	91.63	97.59†	-1.18	4.05
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	123.50	131.40†	-2.80	1.71
500	595.40	640.26	+1.16	1.56
General	470.90	503.60†	-7.50	1.19
Property	273.80	293.60†	+0.50	5.56
Trustee	328.40	349.40	-5.60	1.15
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	211.90	225.60	-3.30	1.10
FTSE 100	152.60	162.00	-3.20	1.40
Growth Acc	661.80	704.60	-13.80	1.15
Smaller Cos	68.10	73.71	-0.25	1.86
Smaller Cos Acc	83.23	88.77	-0.31	1.86
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	262.40	277.00	-1.80	
American Growth	180.80	191.40	-1.20	
Japan	89.06	94.04†	-3.55	
Japan Acc	90.19	95.12	-3.59	
Japan Spec Sits	41.20	43.60	-1.44	
Worldwide	240.60	255.40	-2.90	0.59
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	50.90	52.23†	+0.02	8.47
Mgd Gwth & Inc #	50.70	53.66†	-0.24	5
Managed Growth	52.67	56.09	-0.87	0.60
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Brokerline 0800 731 2443				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	141.80	142.50†	-1.40	4.82
Equity Income #	194.60	207.60†	-2.40	3.58
Gilt & Fx Int	65.13	67.41	+0.07	6.88
Intl Fxd Int	98.62	103.10	-0.30	5.04
Intl Fxd Int Acc	129.40	133.70	-0.30	5.04
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	605.60	644.20	-9.70	1.18
UK Growth Acc	605.60	644.20	-9.70	1.18
Growth & Inc	815.80	855.10†	-13.40	1.17
Growth & Inc Acc	1339	1425†	-22.00	1.17
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	294.60	311.70	-1.30	0.23
Euro Growth Acc	322.80	341.40	-1.40	0.23
Far Eastern Gwth	110.40	117.50	-8.80	0.91
Far East Gth Acc	187.50	199.50	-11.00	0.51
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	205.60	217.00	-2.80	
Amer Smllr Cos	181.00	191.90	+0.70	
Eastern	160.60	172.20	-8.80	0.30
Equity Income #	140.60	149.00	-2.00	4.00
European Growth	630.20	669.40	+3.50	0.80
Europe	522.60	558.00	+3.90	0.60
German Growth	160.80	170.50	+1.30	0.50
Global Bond	74.87	78.76	-0.32	5.10
Global Growth	213.90	227.10	-1.80	0.10
Japan Growth	110.80	117.40	-2.40	
Japan Sunrise	79.21	83.90	-0.02	
Korea Trust	35.25	37.98	-1.61	
Portfolio	200.50	213.30	-1.30	1.80
-do- Accum	389.30	414.30	-2.30	1.80
UK Growth	158.50	169.00	-1.80	1.60
UK Smaller Cos	151.40	163.90†	-1.30	1.00
Select Managers	106.90	113.90	-0.50	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	112.10	119.30	-0.40	
Special Oppor Inc	63.80	67.87	+0.57	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 0020				
Balanced Growth	205.35	218.07†	-4.30	0.72
-do- Accum	248.38	258.74	-5.10	0.72
Smaller Cos	216.42	225.43	-1.42	0.15
-do- Accum	245.44	255.67	-1.60	0.15
Higher Yield #	78.12	82.42†	-1.19	3.21
-do- Accum #	131.22	136.68	-1.98	3.21
American Gth Inc	148.77	154.97	-0.01	...
European Growth	248.25	258.60†	+3.59	
-do- Accum	253.58	264.13	+3.66	
Mngd Ptflo Inc	66.46	69.23†	-0.31	1.18
-do- Accum	69.98	72.89	-0.33	1.18
Int Spec Opps	228.97	238.51	+1.86	
Pacific Gth	110.19	114.78	-2.13	0.91
UK General #	140.58	146.42	-2.01	2.36
-do- Accum #	156.78	163.29	-2.24	2.36
Japan	37.03	38.57	-0.58	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	113.00	117.10†	+0.09	7.26
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64.77	65.60†	+0.05	6.37
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	247.50	260.60	-1.90	1.21
UK Growth	310.80	327.10	-5.20	1.17
UK Income	211.60	222.80†	-2.00	3.11
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	312.10	330.80	-4.10	1.03
-do- Income Dist	177.00	187.50†	-4.30	2.70
-do- Accum	603.30	639.50†	-7.90	2.70
Gilt & Fxd Int	44.60	47.07	-0.03	4.62
Growth Units	378.40	401.07	-4.90	1.44
Bond	193.70	203.70	-0.10	5.60
Intl Growth	258.40	274.60†	-2.00	0.76
North American	356.40	388.60	-2.59	
Far East	190.40	203.60	-5.60	1.04
UK Smaller Cos	312.60	334.30	-0.80	0.86
European	140.10	149.00	-1.30	0.43
Japanese Growth	27.43	29.08†	-0.32	
High Income	312.00	333.00†	-4.00	3.57
Eurogrowth Plus	242.15	257.61	+1.42	0.09
Portfolio	108.37	115.29	-0.25	1.04
UF Income Inc	134.01	142.43†	-0.82	1.32
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	327.50	346.30†	-3.40	
European Inc	154.40	164.00	+1.30	0.10
Smaller Cos (4-1)	126.10	134.20†	-1.10	1.52
Growth	793.00	843.70	-8.40	1.55
Income & Growth #	662.40	704.70	-8.60	3.80
-do- Accum #	1054.70	1122.10	-12.50	3.80
Japan & Gen	46.31	49.04†	-0.92	
Hallmark Gwth	1652.00	1721.00†	-24.00	1.33
-do- Accum	2088.00	2178.00	-29.00	1.33
Special Sits	183.30	195.00	-2.20	1.51
High Yield	2104.00	2231.00	-28.00	3.28
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	125.07	133.03	-1.77	2.14
American Portfolio	181.63	192.83	-0.91	0.41
European Portfolio	208.18	221.15†	+0.33	0.29
High Income	57.15	60.11	-0.81	6.22
Japanese Portfolio	44.70	47.30†	-0.22	
Pacific Portfolio	115.09	123.76	-1.88	1.15
UF Equity	128.64	137.22†	-2.61	2.55
UF Equity & Bd	74.66	79.13	-0.22	4.78
Uk Smlr Cos	61.48	65.76	-0.40	1.74
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1081.50	1097.84	-4.42	3.16
Inv Fd Acc	1123.76	1140.74	-4.59	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	169.79	170.47	+0.34	7.51
Fxd Int Sec Acc	185.05	185.79	+0.38	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	1048.66	1064.50	+13.40	3.27
Investment Acc	5132.32	5209.88	+65.53	
Fixed Int Inc	137.00	137.54	+1.51	7.58
Fixed Int Acc	283.40	284.54	+3.13	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	102.10	107.34	-0.39	5.76
Beck Em-Tech	40.52	43.86	-1.13	
Acorn Ethical 1st	229.18	243.81	-4.91	0.50
City Fin Assets	101.74	106.84†	+0.78	2.64
City Fin Intl	96.55	102.71	-0.59	
Friars Hse Cap	433.86	461.55	-4.72	2.05
Buckley Wrld Grth	139.74	148.12		
Utilities Fd	91.69	93.58	-1.76	3.21
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admn. 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	50.06	53.11	-1.34	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	111.01	118.10	+0.30	
Dragon Growth	44.90	48.02	-1.31	1.25
Equity High Inc #	133.89	141.68	-1.96	3.81
-do- Accum #	203.08	214.89	-2.98	3.81
Extra Income Inc	29.51	31.08†	+0.02	5.59
Extra Income Acc	35.16	37.02	+0.01	5.59
European Gwth	103.96	110.01	-0.36	
Evergreen	40.55	43.36	-0.23	
General Equity	154.46	163.02	-2.38	1.76
Japan Growth	30.61	32.56	-0.09	
Pedigree Gwth	97.87	103.56	-1.87	1.17
Ped Sm Coz Inc	49.05	51.90	-0.08	1.08
-do- Accum	52.82	55.89	-0.08	1.08
Retirement Inc #	38.11	40.86	-0.37	4.39
Special Sits	64.78	69.66	-0.83	2.02
UK & Overseas	76.49	80.94	-0.98	0.25
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	91.54	95.35	-0.91	2.93
Capital	115.60	120.41	-1.14	1.61
High Income	58.33	60.76	-0.01	6.25
Top 50	86.82	90.43	-1.44	1.57
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	264.06	275.09†	-1.84	3.68
Long Gilt	53.46	55.65†		4.64
Monthly Inc Plus	63.04	65.67†	+0.15	6.82
-do- Accum	77.71	80.96	+0.19	6.82
Preference Share	60.22	62.74†	-0.06	6.21
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	183.16	190.81†	-0.79	5.05
Managed Fund	93.35	97.25†	-0.90	2.18
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	57.58	59.99†	-0.38	1.42
-do- Accum	69.39	72.29†	-0.46	1.42
UK & General	139.85	145.69†	-2.52	1.86
-do- Accum	188.50	196.37†	-3.40	1.86
UK Growth	278.33	289.96†	-5.07	1.36
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	342.38	356.68†	-0.70	0.38
Far Eastern Grth	92.10	95.95†	-2.30	0.29
Global Bond	70.23	73.16†	-0.37	5.24
Japan Growth	80.12	83.47†	-2.15	
North Amer Grth	346.24	360.70†	-3.63	
Oriental Growth	56.76	59.13†	-1.31	0.83
Worldwide Growth	92.56	96.43†	-1.21	0.27
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.68	91.68†	+0.11	6.81
Homeowner Fund	113.36	120.61	-2.40	1.91
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Consistent UT	48.80	52.08	-0.28	2.48
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	226.90	241.40	-1.50	1.46
Income	98.17	104.44	-1.18	3.26
European Growth	114.90	122.00	-0.70	
Recovery	245.20	260.90†		1.70
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1426.90	1448.20	+32.10	3.03
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	104.20	110.40	-1.40	0.28
Fellowship Tst	139.40	148.20†	+0.20	0.90
Income #	388.40	411.00†	-9.40	3.38
-do- Accum #	1083.00	1152.00	-10.00	3.38
Smaller Cos	270.50	287.70	-1.30	0.64
-do- Accum	339.10	360.70	-1.60	0.64
Gth Portfolio	137.60	146.30	-1.90	1.04
Mthly Inc Port #	114.90	122.20	-1.00	3.19
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1997.80	2025.10	+16.40	0.46
UK Small Cos	2508.60	2520.20	-3.00	3.37
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	296.30	307.50	+2.10	
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers:0171 956 7354 Client Helpline:0800 317573				
Formerly KBUT				
Amer Smllr Cos	233.30	248.10	+2.70	
Asian Growth	179.80	190.30	-9.60	0.30
Bond Income	112.00	116.10†		6.80
European	297.80	316.80	+0.20	0.40
European Priv	155.80	165.50	+1.70	0.70
European Special	214.70	228.30	+4.60	
Gilt Yield	132.90	140.20†		6.10
Global Eqty Inc	153.30	162.70	-2.80	1.40
High Yield #	226.00	240.40†	-4.60	4.00
Japan	272.60	289.60	-7.90	
Japanese Special	129.40	137.60	+4.20	
Money Market	104.35	104.35†	+0.17	5.90
North American	163.60	173.80	+1.70	
Smaller Cos	186.00	197.80	-0.30	0.80
Smlr Cos Div	77.80	82.78	-0.11	4.20
Tomorrows Co Ex	1327.00	1397.00	-27.00	0.10
UK Equity Growth	69.60	74.04	-0.96	0.60
UK Index Inc	486.80	489.00	-8.60	2.40
Birchaus Tst	131.00	140.80†		1.30
Global Income	270.50	287.70	-4.30	2.80
Formerly Thornton				
European	510.20	534.10†	+0.40	0.30
Europe Bd	38.36	39.87	-0.09	7.20
Exempt	869.10	1008.90†	-19.90	1.80
Global Em Mkts	77.98	81.65†	-0.73	0.30
Japan Tst	58.27	61.01†		1.14
Little Dragons	71.64	75.01†	-2.09	
Nth Amer Gwth	442.50	462.60	-1.20	0.80
Oriental Income #	36.08	37.78†	-0.69	3.50
Preference	156.40	163.70†	+0.50	7.80
Tiger	183.80	192.30†	-10.49	
UK Blue Chip	122.00	127.70	-3.10	1.10
UK Growth	935.00	978.90	-13.30	1.30
UK High Yield #	163.50	171.10†	-3.20	4.00
UK Mid-Cap	471.90	494.00†	-0.30	1.20
UK Smlr Cos Div #	97.29	101.80	-0.20	5.50
UK Smll Cos	158.40	166.80	-1.50	0.10
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	27.68	29.42†		4.78
Enterprise	132.90	140.90	-0.10	1.77
Equity Income #	199.70	212.20†	-3.50	3.02
European	93.65	99.11	-1.19	
Financial	89.57	95.17	-0.49	1.05
UK Growth #	412.70	438.50	-7.40	2.00
High Dist. #	253.40	268.80	-4.40	3.16
International	491.80	522.10	-7.40	
Intl Cap Inc	132.00	140.90†	-0.30	1.32
Latin American	36.71	39.00	-0.28	
Mgd Gwth Port	113.90	119.00	+0.50	0.99
Pacific	66.93	71.11	-1.38	
Prof High Inc	27.92	29.67†	+0.06	6.07
Tokyo	135.60	144.40	-3.70	
UK Smaller Cos	321.30	341.40	+1.20	1.40
Japan Sm Cos	226.60	239.90†	-1.70	
Nth Amer	607.90	647.80	+6.90	
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Growth Acc	359.70	378.60	-5.90	0.17
Income	728.90	767.30	+6.80	4.05
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	280.50	298.40†	+0.90	0.97
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	142.82	150.34	-0.40	1.23
Ethical Tst	62.40	65.68	-0.39	0.96
Far Eastern	219.01	230.54	-5.79	1.66
High Income	202.87	213.56	-2.05	3.32
UK Index Trckng	76.70	80.74	-1.68	2.08
Intl Growth	147.60	155.37†	-1.73	1.24
North American	213.92	225.18	+0.84	1.27
Pelican	205.27	216.07†	-3.80	2.26
Smaller Cos	85.88	90.40	-0.80	1.66
Special Sits	105.70	111.26	-0.26	2.45
Tst of Inv Tsts	267.73	281.82	-1.67	1.56
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	194.97	206.87†	+2.73	
Fd of Inv Tsts	69.37	73.80	-0.36	0.11
High Income #	51.23	54.32†	+0.78	9.20
Warr & Gl Opps	67.01	71.69†	+0.20	
Zero Preference	51.16	54.28	+0.26	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	141.40	150.40†	-2.30	1.95
Charities Eth	398.10	421.30†	-4.10	2.29
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	6.80
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond †				
Strategic Inc	31.73	33.13†	-0.24	5.09
Income Funds				
High Income	34.42	36.09†	-0.22	4.35
Income Plus #	197.60	210.20	-2.60	3.31
European Income	74.85	79.48	-0.36	1.14
Moneybuilder Gwth #	46.33	46.68	-0.73	2.03
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	28.09	29.87	-1.79	
American	490.00	520.30	+0.70	
Amer Spec Sits	259.40	276.30	+4.90	
Japan Smaller Cos	18.04	19.16	+0.40	
European	365.60	388.60	+3.70	0.27
European Opps	135.90	144.40†	-1.20	0.39
Global Priv	46.77	49.73†	-0.13	0.33
UK Growth	180.30	191.70	-2.40	1.02
Growth & Inc #	264.10	280.90	-4.30	2.13
Intl PEP	68.620	72.980	-0.72	0.95
Japan Spec Sits	56.12	59.54	-0.44	...
Japan	141.60	149.80	-1.80	
Managed Intl	483.20	513.30	-2.00	0.58
Moneybuilder Plus	86.92	87.54	-0.82	0.30
Recovery	78.250	83.210†	+0.12	1.64
South E Asia	149.80	158.50	-5.80	1.32
Special Sits	1040.00	1106.00	-2.00	1.02
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	124.81	124.81	+0.14	6.80
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	189.80	191.40†	+0.70	1.44
Finsbury Prf Inc #	116.90	117.80	-0.80	5.18
Cap Ptfolio	211.70	213.10	-2.90	0.23
General Opps	192.10	193.20	+0.90	2.80
Growth Inc	54.19	54.84	-0.63	1.01
Private Portfolio	661.40	666.20	+4.40	0.95
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 386 Admn/Val 01277 690 959				
Euro Smllr Cos	230.20	244.90	+1.20	
High Income	24.64	26.11	-0.34	6.62
UK Smllr Cos	37.15	39.73	-0.29	1.73
US Smaller Cos	794.90	831.70	+2.30	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	120.90	127.90†	-1.10	
-do- Accum	120.90	127.00†	-1.10	
Amer Smllr Cos	879.20	934.30	+15.20	
-do- Accum	898.20	954.60	+15.60	
Capital Tst	480.50	511.20†	+1.10	1.26
-do- Accum	717.60	763.40†	+1.60	1.26
Cont Smllr Cos	89.42	95.38	+0.81	
-do- Accum	95.95	102.38	+0.90	
Convertible	165.10	175.60	+0.30	5.83
-do- Accum	380.80	408.30	+0.70	5.83
Emerging Markets	62.86	67.16	+0.64	0.07
-do- Accum	63.40	67.73	+0.64	0.07
European	238.10	252.40	-1.70	
-do- Accum	253.20	268.30	-1.80	
Easy Income	539.30	573.70	-11.60	4.11
-do- Accum	898.20	955.50	-19.50	4.11
Financial	300.10	319.30†	-1.20	0.94
-do- Accum	322.70	343.20†	-0.10	0.94
Gilt Trust	64.05	66.04†	-0.08	6.70
-do- Accum	108.40	111.70†	-0.20	6.70
Health Fund Inc	298.20	317.20	-2.60	
-do- Accum	298.20	317.20	-2.60	
Income & Growth	315.20	335.30	-4.90	3.66
-do- Accum	525.80	559.40	-8.20	3.66
Intl Growth	533.00	567.80†	-4.90	
-do- Accum	597.90	630.50†	-5.40	
Japan & Gen	114.00	120.80	-2.50	
-do- Accum	115.10	122.10	-2.50	
Monthly Inc #	275.80	293.40†	-2.70	3.88
-do- Accum #	291.50	310.10†	-2.90	3.88
Managed Port Inc	148.60	158.40†	-1.20	1.15
-do- Accum	165.40	174.10†	-1.40	1.15
Quarterly Income #	72.48	77.40	-0.85	4.81
-do- Accum #	88.53	94.55	-1.03	4.81
UK Growth	87.30	92.87	-1.51	1.20
-do- Accum	96.46	102.60	-1.70	1.20
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	89.59	95.21	-1.02	..
FP Am Smllr Cos	243.70	259.90	-2.70	
FP Asian Growth	160.80	171.50	-9.90	
FP Australian	450.40	480.40	+3.30	
FP Equity Dist	653.70	697.20	-10.50	1.46
-do- Accum	1492.00	1591.00	-24.00	1.46
FP Euro Gth	480.90	512.90	+0.70	
-do- Accum	526.80	561.90	+0.70	
FP Intl Bond	56.59	59.88	-0.40	3.90
FP Intl Gth Dist	49.93	53.25	-0.48	..
-do- Accum	73.61	78.51	-0.71	
FP Pac Basn Acc	166.80	177.90	-4.20	0.10
FP Income #	82.35	87.84	-1.05	3.92
-do- Accum #	306.60	327.00	-3.90	3.92
FP Jap Smllr Cos	161.20	171.90	+1.30	
FP Monthly Dist #	95.19	101.50†	-0.80	4.50
FP Stdy Deposit	100.20	100.20†	+0.10	6.45
FP Tokyo	61.21	65.29	-0.87	
FP UK Focus	60.52	64.55†	-1.17	1.03
FP UK Growth	286.70	305.80	-4.40	1.01
-do- Accum	594.90	634.50	-9.20	1.01
Stewardship Dist	544.10	580.30	-1.20	1.21
-do- Accum	696.80	743.20	-1.50	1.21
Stewardship Inc Dist #	85.68	91.39	-0.28	4.34
-do- Accum #	126.00	134.40	-0.49	4.34
Stewardship Intnl	177.50	189.30	+0.60	
-do- Accum	191.00	203.70	+0.60	
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical Inc #	143.70	144.40	-1.50	2.40
Inst Ethical Ac #	147.30	148.00	-1.50	2.40
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	169.10	179.80	+0.30	0.49
Open Cap Gth Acc	167.60	178.20	+0.70	
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	148.10	157.50	+0.10	2.40
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	162.30	172.60	+0.20	2.40
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	154.00	163.80	+0.30	2.95
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	171.70	182.60	+0.20	2.95
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 108/7				
GANDA	426.10	448.50	-4.50	1.04
Cash	49.83	50.58	+0.07	6.29
Income Portfolio	95.10	100.10	-0.90	2.37
GA Equity Gth	316.50	338.80†	-0.70	1.09
GA European Gth	203.18	215.10†	-1.10	
GA Japan Gth	72.21	76.35†	-1.13	
GA Nth Amer Gth	346.80	365.10†	-2.00	
GA Intl Gth	158.20	167.90†	-1.10	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 8431				
American Smlr Cos	294.00	313.50	+6.00	0.11
European Gth	1089.00	1158.00	+6.00	0.14
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	66.55	70.38†	+0.21	2.64
-do- Accum	78.26	82.76	+0.24	2.64
High Yield #	56.81	60.02	-0.03	6.58
-do- Accum #	68.62	72.49	-0.03	6.58
Income Inc	271.00	288.90†	-3.00	2.95
-do- Accum	324.30	345.90	-3.60	2.95
Intl Growth	441.60	467.90	-3.40	1.77
Intl Income	130.70	138.40	-2.30	1.84
Japan Growth	386.30	409.30	+0.20	0.03
Orient Acc	134.40	143.70	-6.80	0.21
UK Blue Chip Inc	276.10	295.10	+1.70	1.03
UK Blue Chip Acc	501.30	535.70	+3.10	1.03
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	89.14	95.34	+1.05	1.22
US Growth	264.70	279.80	-8.30	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	84.30	89.88	-1.27	1.35
Prudentl Inv Inc #	158.01	168.99†	-1.08	2.85
-do- Accum #	394.57	422.00†	-2.71	2.85
UK Index	256.98	258.27†	-4.72	2.26
UK Smaller Cos	296.68	317.30	+1.78	1.06
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	26.54	27.50†	-0.35	6.60
High Income	49.27	52.54	-0.73	3.10
UK Growth & Inc	222.19	236.93	-2.90	2.15
Global Bond	27.12	28.11†	-0.12	5.62
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	44.05	47.11†	-0.84	
Global Managed	171.79	182.17†	-1.11	0.71
Gold & Intl Res	77.49	82.86	-0.81	
Global Utilities	217.42	231.67	-3.37	3.72
Overseas Funds				
American	277.05	293.00	-1.12	0.05
European	213.64	227.01	+0.01	0.31
Euro Sel Opps	350.65	373.00	+1.48	
Amer Emerging	231.14	245.57	-0.59	
Hong Kong	122.63	131.11	-4.58	2.76
Japan	136.90	144.80	-3.34	
Pacific Growth	145.00	155.08	-6.92	0.83
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	157.33	157.33†	+0.18	6.89
Managed Equity	324.18	324.18†	-7.85	1.58
Long Term Bal	343.39	343.39†	-0.14	2.53
Med Term Bal	281.36	281.36†	-2.17	2.84
UK Equity	425.88	425.88	-7.87	1.66
UK Emerging Cos	217.00	217.00	-0.51	1.70
American	457.17	457.17†	-6.41	0.31
Japan	85.48	85.48†	-1.38	
European	549.58	549.58†	-1.24	0.59
Index Linked Gilt	220.41	220.41†	-0.12	2.44
Fixed Interest	213.63	213.63	+0.06	6.05
Amer Emerges	517.51	517.51†	-3.85	
Pacific	131.40	131.40	-4.91	1.83
Emerging Mkts	132.26	132.26	-1.26	0.64
Index Sitat Japan	90.43	90.43	-3.23	0.53
-do- Pacific Rim	122.13	122.13	-3.46	2.82
-do- Cont Europe	295.64	295.64	-2.44	1.84
Index Sitat USA	290.95	290.95	-1.80	1.03
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	153.65	163.24	-3.94	
Med Term Bal	134.83	143.43	-1.11	
Long Term Bal	155.26	165.16	-1.74	
UK Equity	199.41	212.13	-3.93	
UK Emerging Cos	99.70	106.08	-3.40	
American	212.77	226.35	-3.17	
Japan	40.90	43.50	-0.70	
European	229.43	244.07	-0.55	
Fixed Interest	111.27	118.36	-0.07	
Index Linked Gilt	98.41	104.69	-0.06	
Deposit	95.43	101.51	+0.12	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	188.13	198.03†	+4.17	0.43
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Intl Gwth Inc ‡	940.61		-0.17	
-do- Accum ‡	1067.69		-0.19	
European Gth Inc ‡	248.88		-3.39	0.23
Amalgam Inc	211.61	223.40	-0.99	
N Amer Gwth Inc ‡	638.88		+10.42	
Far East Gth Inc ‡	253.46		-8.85	0.52
-do- Accum ‡	264.43		-9.24	0.46
UK Dvid Inc ‡	280.10		-1.22	0.99
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9668				
European	862.00	920.90	-7.00	
Gilt & Fixed	146.30	155.10	-0.10	4.92
Growth Equity	582.40	622.20	-8.00	0.91
Income Trust	213.10	227.60	-2.60	3.46
International	252.70	269.90†	-2.50	
Japan Trust	85.29	91.12	-1.31	
Nth American	496.20	529.50†	-1.90	
Pacific	359.10	383.60†	-12.80	0.57
Guardbull	835.80	892.90	-12.70	1.12
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
European Bond	97.98	101.68	+0.09	4.30
Global High Inc	92.80	96.32	-0.39	5.01
Stlg Bond Ptfo	117.63	122.09†	+0.02	5.33
Caut Mgd Ptfo	148.89	158.31†	-0.79	3.81
European Ptfo	196.31	208.72	-3.34	
World Mkts Ptfo	94.79	100.75	-1.96	0.20
Uk Eq Inc Ptfo	203.09	215.93	-3.62	2.52
-do- Accum	312.90	332.69	-5.41	2.52
UK Opps	584.70	621.60†	-16.80	2.17
-do- Accum	721.70	767.30	-12.30	2.17
St Wlec High Inc	172.33	174.91	-1.16	4.54
Uk Emerg Cos	316.70	336.70	+3.20	3.10
Inst UK Sm Co	399.00	406.00	+3.50	3.17
Club Prvr Tst	163.08	173.40	-1.73	1.00
-do- Accum	170.58	181.36	-1.82	1.00
Inc Share Tst	132.69	141.09	+0.98	6.43
HK & China Tst	75.32	80.09	-2.60	1.12
Blue Chip Ptfo	345.32	367.16	-6.50	1.24
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 01904 611110				
Balanced Inc	74.86	79.38	-0.76	2.34
Balanced Acc	82.67	87.67	-0.84	2.34
Growth	47.31	50.17†	-0.77	1.20
Growth Acc	50.00	53.03	-0.82	1.20
Income	43.59	46.22†	-0.64	3.09
Income Acc	48.88	51.83	-0.72	3.18
Accumulation Tst	39.53	42.83	-0.66	2.29
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Port Acc	62.64	66.46†	-0.17	2.29
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 494949 Dealing: 0645 464646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	501.43	536.51†	+1.77	
Best of British	100.14	106.44	-0.97	1.18
UK Smaller Cos	208.52	220.93	+1.14	0.15
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	429.83	457.86	-7.64	1.83
-do- Accum #	1265.71	1347.68	-22.50	1.83
High Income	470.03	502.45†	-8.20	3.08
Extra Income #	389.66	414.39†	-3.32	4.70
Pref & Bond	58.86	62.01†	-0.72	6.78
International				
Ethical	165.33	176.81	-1.38	1.52
International	385.64	410.19†	-2.44	0.19
Global Bond	52.87	55.65†	-0.37	5.16
Intl Port Tst	127.39	136.18	-0.24	
Global Tech	324.87	345.81	+2.42	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	150.20	160.32	-3.46	0.63
European	978.44	1037.19†	-8.98	
European Income #	139.15	147.47	+0.95	2.28
Euro Smlr Cos	275.58	294.97†	+7.90	...
European Value	136.39	145.16†	+0.67	
-do- Accum	147.40	156.88	+0.73	...
Japan Trust	119.89	126.56	-3.38	
Japan Smllr Cos	105.16	111.67†	+0.71	
Pacific Smlr Cos	171.44	182.64†	-2.80	
North American	469.88	497.86	-5.78	
American Smaller	258.20	274.35†	+1.44	...
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0800 520050				
British	182.88	191.50	-3.96	1.25
Capital	267.79	280.41	-4.80	0.84
Dollar	721.07	755.04	-4.63	
Enterprise Gth	582.58	610.03†	-11.11	0.62
European	417.78	437.47	-2.33	...
Far East	198.37	207.72	-2.77	1.05
Financial	1718.23	1799.19†	-21.21	0.83
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	29.27	30.64†	-0.39	5.54
High Yield	159.98	167.52	-2.63	3.52
Income & Growth	233.94	244.96†	-7.72	2.50
International	377.22	395.00	-5.69	0.32
Japanese General	137.37	143.84	-1.97	
Japan Tech	63.08	66.05	+0.67	...
Nat Resources	62.17	65.10†	-0.74	1.02
Portfolio	109.31	114.46†	-2.46	2.14
Special Sits	295.86	309.80†	-3.32	0.85
Uk Emerging Cos	151.80	158.95	-0.46	0.86
US Smaller Cos	205.74	215.44	-0.58	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	913.90	975.30	-10.00	3.83
UK Growth	984.80	1050.†	-17.00	1.19
High Income #	161.20	172.00†	-0.70	4.81
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	882.50	932.30†	-8.40	
European Gwth	248.90	265.20	+2.30	
Japan Gwth	203.30	215.90	-2.00	
Japan Smlr Cos	17.64	18.83	+0.22	
Asian	36.15	38.58	-1.74	1.10
Sing & Malay Gwth	39.75	42.42	-1.73	
Hong Kong Gwth	146.70	156.50†	-4.70	1.68
Global Bond	20.64	21.75	-0.14	4.85
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	241.80	243.00	-3.70	2.29
Trade Index	155.90	160.00	+0.30	2.11
THE FOOTSIE FUND	98.56	99.08	-1.94	1.51
Index Funds-International				
American Index	436.80	439.00	-6.50	0.40
Eurotrack 100	304.80	306.10	-1.00	0.39
Japan Index	48.29	48.53	-1.44	0.31
Tiger Index	97.01	99.11	-2.89	1.58
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	58.66	61.26	-0.02	1.35
General Funds				
Managed Dist	112.50	117.50	-0.70	0.88
Managed	117.20	122.40	-0.70	0.88
Rupert Child Fnd	154.40	161.10†	-3.20	0.93
UF Growth	97.10	101.40	-1.80	1.08
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	121.10	126.50	-1.30	4.39
Gilt & Fixed Int #	29.58	30.56†	+0.06	7.18
UK Inc & Gwth	68.16	71.19†	-2.05	2.10
UK Income #	529.20	552.70†	-15.90	3.28
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	84.25	87.17†	-2.16	
Amer Smllr Cos	213.90	222.90	+5.60	
-do- Accum	216.20	224.80	+5.60	
Europe Gth	405.80	423.90	+5.00	
-do- Accum	421.30	439.10	+5.20	
Euro Smaller Cos	73.14	76.15	+2.20	
French Growth	138.50	143.90	-1.60	0.44
-do- Accum	150.00	155.80	-1.70	0.44
H Kong & China	99.35	103.50	-3.30	0.76
Intl Growth	86.50	89.98	-1.81	0.47
-do- Accum	88.26	91.81	-1.02	0.47
Japan Gth	18.83	19.62	-0.43	
-do- Accum	18.83	19.62	-0.43	
Japan Smaller Cos	19.66	20.52	+0.46	
Glob Emg Mkts	93.37	97.51	-0.74	0.03
-do- Accum	94.03	98.20	-0.73	0.03
SE Asia	201.90	210.90†	-11.00	0.67
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	49.69	51.22	-0.34	5.68
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690448				
UK Income #	157.70	166.90†	-3.90	2.44
UK Growth	165.40	175.00†	-3.00	1.21
Euro Growth	145.70	154.70	+0.40	1.44
Slater Gwth	266.00	281.50	-2.20	0.71
New Japan	61.00	64.78	+0.53	
Global Growth	114.40	121.10	-3.10	
Monthly Inc #	97.23	101.92†	+0.15	7.50
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	174.00	185.00	-3.10	
Income #	303.61	322.98	-0.50	3.72
UK Growth	118.90	126.48	+0.14	1.68
Intl Growth	109.50	116.47	-0.15	
Ecology	135.09	143.71†	-0.61	0.52
European	314.11	333.25	+2.70	0.39
Far Eastern	247.20	262.80	-8.20	
UK Special Sits	90.43	95.78†	-0.42	0.30
Fd of Inv Tsts	67.77	72.28	-1.01	0.37
High Income #	68.83	73.41†	-0.85	4.90
Financial Opps	72.88	77.72	+2.72	0.10
Growth & Income #	57.86	61.71	-0.65	2.43
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 558 8800				
Bridge Income	412.18	438.49†	-11.46	4.05
Est Growth	141.74	150.79†	-0.45	0.45
Inc & Growth	102.64	109.19	-1.78	2.85
Smaller Cos	127.26	135.38†	+0.10	1.25
Ever Spec Sit Inc	73.32	78.00		1.48
Ever Spec Sit Acc	77.61	82.56	+0.01	1.48
Pennine Growth	61.61	65.54†	-0.69	2.71
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	641.00	680.10	-7.00	1.25
UK Inc/Gth #	667.10	707.80	-7.60	3.05
UF Income #	476.40	505.50	-4.20	3.90
UK Income Acc #	485.50	515.10	-4.30	3.90
UK Sm Cos	375.90	402.00†	+0.40	1.62
Euro Gwth	239.50	253.90	-1.80	0.21
N Amer Gwth	168.70	178.30	-0.50	
Pacific Growth	6.68	7.09	-0.19	0.20
Emg Mkts Gwth	73.82	78.32	+0.48	
Japan Growth	41.68	44.22	-0.86	
Dealing: 01277 842626				
Gwth Port Inc	92.84	98.18†	+0.83	0.54
Gwth Port Acc	94.84	100.29†	+0.85	0.53
Inc Port Inc	87.16	92.17†	+0.70	2.96
Inc Port Acc	100.99	106.80†	+0.91	2.84
Wwide Port	70.45	74.50	+0.62	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 683512				
Equity Dist @	846.10	846.10†	-14.80	1.69
-do- Accum @	1798.00	1798.00†	-32.00	1.69
Equity Income #	137.90	137.90†	-1.30	3.95
UK Tactical Allocn @	94.82	94.82†	-2.48	5.54
European @	221.80	221.60†	-2.30	0.05
Far Eastern @	158.70	158.70	-2.60	
Fixed Interest @	60.82	60.82†	+0.01	6.92
Gilt @	100.40	100.40†	-0.10	5.77
Global Growth @	94.23	94.23	-1.13	0.06
Intl Bond @	47.68	47.68†	-0.45	4.93
Japanese @	49.21	49.21	-0.40	
North American @	319.30	319.30†	-3.20	0.07
Pacific Growth @	79.30	79.30†	-1.60	0.93
Pacific Index @	31.47	31.47†	-0.94	3.11
UF Index @	110.40	110.40†	-1.90	2.19
UK Recovery @	159.00	159.00†	-2.20	1.04
UK Smaller Cos @	211.20	211.20		0.95
US Index @	127.20	127.20	-0.80	0.59
European Index @	142.20	142.20†	-1.30	0.61
Japan Index @	24.67	24.67	-0.93	0.04
Worldwide @	126.70	126.70†	-1.50	0.99
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
Enq 01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 628				
Growth	80.35	85.93	-1.20	1.98
Income	92.49	98.82	-1.18	3.46
Far East	29.81	31.66†	-0.95	0.72
North American	180.30	191.80	-0.70	
Global	105.70	112.80	-1.40	0.34
European	162.60	173.50†	-1.70	0.27
Japan	60.27	64.23	-1.27	
Intl Currency Bd	54.89	58.20†	-0.35	4.74
SE Asia	58.66	62.73†	-2.59	1.17
UK Cap Growth	144.20	154.20†	-1.80	1.22
Recovery Trust	113.70	121.60	+0.40	2.11
Managed	84.80	90.69†	-1.43	1.30
Cash	50.67	50.67	+0.06	6.66
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	591.00	628.60	-9.70	1.66
-do- Accum	1437.00	1529.00	-24.00	1.66
Cont Euro Gth	116.20	124.50	+0.30	0.09
-do- Accum	126.10	134.90	+0.50	0.09
Extra Inc #	414.40	440.80	-1.30	3.39
Extra Inc Acc #	1193.00	1270.00	-4.00	3.39
FTSE 100 Inc	184.50	196.30	-4.00	1.66
FTSE 100 Acc	196.60	209.10	-4.30	1.66
German Gth	218.60	230.20†	-2.80	0.08
-do- Accum	229.20	241.30	-3.00	0.08
Growth Port	896.30	953.60†	-3.90	0.32
-do- Accum	943.70	1004.00	-5.00	0.32
High Interest Inc	113.20	117.40†		6.53
High Interest Acc	130.80	135.60		6.53
Hi Reserve Inc #	136.60	145.40	-1.10	4.72
Hi Reserve Acc #	159.60	169.80	-1.40	4.72
Income Inc #	793.40	844.10†	-25.10	3.05
Income Acc #	2362.00	2513.00	-44.00	3.05
Income Port	750.60	798.60	-13.80	3.47
-do- Accum	885.50	942.10	-16.40	3.47
Japan Growth	70.94	75.47†	-1.05	
-do- Accum	71.19	75.74	-1.04	
Master Trust	87.37	92.96	-0.23	1.14
-do- Accum	102.60	109.20	-0.30	1.14
Millennium Acc	137.20	146.00	+2.30	1.56
N American Gen	359.30	382.30	-1.00	0.50
-do- Accum	415.90	442.50	-1.30	0.50
Nino Sm Co Rec	250.10	266.10†	-1.00	
-do- Accum	255.30	271.60	-1.00	...
Pacific Basin	166.70	177.40	-0.20	0.53
-do- Accum	179.70	191.20	-0.20	0.53
Safety First Acc	124.80	131.40†	-1.20	1.10
Do until 2/10/98 ‡	119.15	...		
Small Cos Rec	617.10	649.60	-17.20	1.81
-do- Accum	866.50	912.20	-24.80	1.81
UK Eq Gth	240.80	256.30†	-4.20	1.91
UK Eq Inc #	186.90	198.80†	-3.60	3.05
UF Growth	153.10	162.90	-2.60	1.32
-do- Accum	196.20	208.80	-3.30	1.32
Worldwide Gth	457.30	486.50	-6.50	0.31
-do- Accum	676.90	720.20	-9.70	0.31
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
General	155.72	167.08	-2.70	2.00
Income	104.97	112.62†	-1.39	3.40
International	89.05	95.54	-1.06	0.30
Tst of Inv Tsts	97.58	104.69†	-1.12	0.98
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
American	701.50	740.50	-0.10	0.45
-do- Accum	881.30	930.30	-0.10	0.45
Amer Recovery	831.90	879.70	+5.30	0.23
-do- Accum	962.10	1017.50	+6.20	0.23
Amer Smllr Cos	196.40	207.70	+2.10	..
-do- Accum	200.60	212.20	+2.10	
Australasian	197.20	208.50	+1.00	2.03
-do- Accum	254.60	269.30	+1.30	2.03
Blue Chip #	100.70	101.25	-1.62	3.11
-do- Accum #	311.30	312.93	-5.02	3.11
British Opps	75.30	79.60†	-1.60	2.29
-do- Accum	273.80	289.50†	-3.40	2.29
Capital	1248.40	1320.20	-18.90	2.30
-do- Accum	1539.90	1628.40	-23.40	2.30
Charifund #	1110.10	1121.30	-10.60	4.35
-do- Accum #	6160.20	6230.80	-58.90	4.35
Commodity	349.50	369.60	+0.40	1.42
-do- Accum	518.80	548.70	+0.60	1.42
Corporate Bond	29.79	29.81	+0.03	6.00
Dividend	61.10	64.60†	-0.70	3.75
-do- Accum	287.90	304.60†	-3.50	3.75
Equity Income #	422.30	446.60†	-1.00	4.46
-do- Accum #	625.60	661.70†	-1.80	4.46
European	943.50	1004.10	-10.00	0.31
-do- Accum	1225.50	1296.00	-12.90	0.31
Euro Dividend #	117.70	124.50	-0.50	2.90
-do- Accum #	155.80	164.50	-0.80	2.80
Euro Smllr Cos	77.00	81.40	+1.10	0.50
-do- Accum	77.30	81.70	+1.10	0.50
Extra Income #	654.20	691.80†	-6.80	4.19
-do- Accum #	2336.00	2470.30†	-24.40	4.19
Fund of Inv Tsts	886.70	937.70	-3.60	1.09
-do- Accum	1738.90	1839.00	-7.10	1.09
Gilt Income	71.08	71.20	+0.01	5.30
-do- Accum	233.33	233.71	+0.01	5.30
Gold	42.70	45.20	-0.70	0.45
-do- Accum	51.60	54.60	-0.90	0.45
High Interest	25.31	25.31	+0.02	7.25
Income #	46.70	49.40	-0.30	3.64
-do- Accum #	211.00	223.20	-1.70	3.64
Intl Growth	102.00	107.90	-0.80	0.68
-do- Accum	181.60	192.20	-1.40	0.68
International Inc #	140.50	148.60†	-2.70	3.74
-do- Accum #	235.80	249.50†	-1.80	3.74
Japan	23.30	24.50	-0.60	0.02
-do- Accum	25.00	26.30	-0.50	0.02
Japan Smlr Cos	83.10	87.70	+1.80	0.05
-do- Accum	83.70	88.40	+1.90	0.05
Managed Gwth @	32.80	33.05	-0.30	1.21
Managed Income #	36.80	39.12†	-0.24	3.91
Pension Ex	1518.80	1556.80	-19.20	2.75
Recovery	65.50	69.30	-0.60	2.28
-do- Accum	116.30	123.20	-1.00	2.28
Smaller Cos	78.80	83.30	-0.40	1.90
-do- Accum	169.50	179.30	-0.80	1.90
Sth East Asia	254.20	268.80	-9.00	2.11
-do- Accum	345.20	365.10	-12.10	2.11
Trustee #	58.90	62.30	-0.70	4.10
-do- Accum #	267.40	283.10	-3.30	4.10
UK Equity #	92.40	97.70	-1.40	3.57
-do- Accum #	264.30	279.40	-4.10	3.57
UK Growth	1578.60	1669.40	-27.70	1.42
-do- Accum	1785.40	1888.00	-31.40	1.42
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 281 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	164.17	174.64†	-1.47	0.22
Intl Bond	61.05	64.12	-0.54	3.41
Intl Equity Growth	106.65	113.24	-1.62	0.40
N Amer Growth	196.44	208.23†	-3.54	0.35
Special Sits Growth	40.31	42.88†	-0.52	1.43
UK Growth	659.22	701.29†	-8.69	1.75
-do- Accum	936.76	996.55	-12.34	1.75
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1601.40	1624.90	-2.30	2.60
Income #	1324.30	1343.70	-0.98	3.80
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	226.70	231.80†	+4.90	3
MANEK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0171 615 7070				
Growth Fd Acc	112.90	120.40	-1.60	
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	109.60	112.90	-0.70	5.93
Investment Pflo	230.90	238.10	-2.30	1.79
-do- Accum	282.09	290.70	-2.80	1.79
UK Select Pflo	225.40	232.40	-3.70	1.50
-do- Accum	279.50	288.20	-4.50	1.54
UK 100 Cos	176.30	176.30†	-3.80	1.54
-do- Accum	184.00	184.00†	-4.00	1.54

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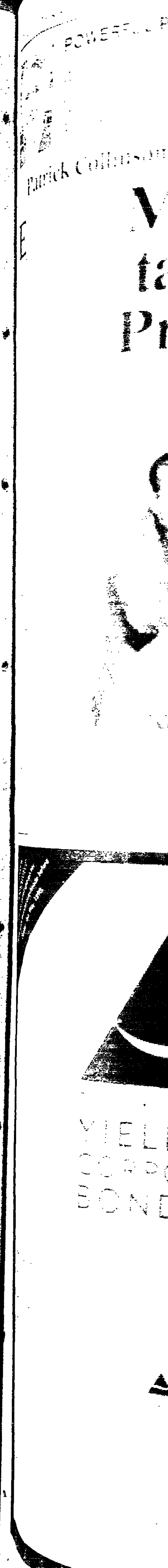
TT/4/98

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01394 384 842				
Managed Tst	82.52	87.79†	-0.06	2.95
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	110.90	117.70†	-0.60	3.86
European	151.80	161.10	-0.30	0.21
Income #	115.70	122.80	-1.50	3.27
Nth American	125.30	133.00	+0.60	0.17
Far East	133.70	141.90	-2.70	
Japan	48.83	51.84†	-0.30	
Emrgng Mkts	83.89	89.72	+0.42	0.65
Intl Growth	153.60	163.16†	-1.00	0.58
UK Growth	163.00	173.00	-1.10	1.57
UK Smlr Co	72.95	77.44	+0.12	1.42
Asia Pacific	27.74	29.67	-0.75	0.10
Glob Gwth PEP	81.44	86.45	-0.26	0.56
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	122.90	130.80†	-8.60	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Income	677.53	720.78†	-13.69	2.49
Global Inc	103.28	109.87†	-1.07	2.50
Brit Leaders Inc	516.27	549.22†	-9.95	1.70
Intl Leaders	318.10	338.40†	-4.48	0.31
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	406.30	428.40	-0.60	
-do- Accum	434.50	458.00	-0.70	
American Opps	161.50	171.00	-0.30	
-do- Accum	163.60	173.20	-0.10	
Bal Port	121.80	129.20†	-1.00	2.39
-do- Accum	155.40	164.90†	-1.20	2.30
British Blue Chip	140.90	149.50†	-1.70	2.21
-do- Accum	187.60	199.10†	-2.10	2.21
Cash	101.40	101.40	+0.10	7.06
-do- Accum	159.70	159.70	+0.10	7.06
Emerging Mkts	131.00	140.90	-0.80	0.22
-do- Accum	132.90	142.90	-0.90	0.22
European Growth	507.80	537.30	-0.70	0.10
-do- Accum	554.30	586.80	-0.60	0.10
General	798.60	848.50†	-11.10	1.90
-do- Accum	1683.00	1788.00†	-23.00	1.90
Global Bond	126.70	133.10†	-0.60	3.61
-do- Accum	180.00	189.20†	-0.90	3.61
Gold & General	138.10	148.20	-3.40	0.42
-do- Accum	142.90	153.40	-3.50	0.42
Govt Securities	105.40	108.60	...	4.67
-do- Accum	237.50	244.80		4.67
High Yield Bd	113.30	116.00†		5.22
-do- Accum	130.30	133.40†		5.22
Income	268.90	286.00	-2.40	3.15
-do- Accum	470.50	500.30	-4.30	3.15
Inc Portfolio #	142.50	150.88†	-1.30	4.67
-do- Accum #	166.30	176.00†	-1.50	4.67
Intl Opps	714.50	762.10	+0.20	0.66
-do- Accum	974.30	1039.00	+1.00	0.66
Japan	128.30	136.70	-3.30	
-do- Accum	131.70	140.20	-3.60	
New Europe	334.90	357.20	-0.10	0.79
-do- Accum	353.30	376.90	-0.10	0.79
Pacific	68.84	73.43	-4.02	0.29
-do- Accum	74.26	79.21	-4.34	0.29
Recovery	806.80	847.30	-7.30	1.44
-do- Accum	812.30	866.50	-9.80	1.44
UK Smaller Cos	74.47	79.43†	-1.88	1.48
-do- Accum	87.28	93.22†	-2.18	1.48
Managed Grth	155.60	162.60	-1.30	1.56
Managed Inc	150.90	156.50	-1.00	3.53
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	87.54	91.66†	-1.15	2.01
-do- Accum	99.83	104.50†	-1.40	2.01
British Tst	152.50	159.70	-3.90	1.13
-do- Accum	189.30	198.20	-4.90	1.13
Corp Bond Inc	108.50	113.50	+0.20	5.86
-do- Accum	121.20	125.60	+0.20	5.86
Extra High Inc #	93.73	98.15†	-0.35	5.10
-do- Accum #	218.40	228.70†	-0.80	5.10
FTSE 100 Acc	107.30	112.40	-2.58	1.53
FTSE 100 Dist	97.83	102.40	-2.40	1.53
Gilt & Fxd Int	61.45	63.94	+0.10	5.70
-do- Accum	211.40	219.90	+0.30	5.70
High Yield #	330.50	346.10	-0.80	4.88
-do- Accum #	973.30	1019	-3.00	4.88
Household Names	139.50	140.20	-1.80	1.14
Income #	458.10	479.70	-4.40	3.43
-do- Accum #	1131	1184	-11.00	3.43
Money Market UT	49.78	49.78	+0.07	6.65
-do- Accum	89.44	89.44	+0.12	6.65
Monthly Income	130.70	136.90†	-1.30	3.56
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	198.00	210.60	-4.49	1.57
European Growth	224.60	238.00	-0.78	
Gilt & Fixed	119.90	127.20	+0.20	5.52
Income	154.90	164.80	-1.50	3.14
Japan Growth	31.40	33.29	+0.64	...
Managed	108.90	115.90	-2.00	2.06
Money Market	104.10	110.30	+0.20	4.95
North American	156.20	165.60	-1.40	
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	179.40	190.90	-3.90	1.57
European Growth	210.50	223.10	-0.78	
Gilt & Fixed Int	111.30	118.00	+0.20	5.58
Income	151.60	161.30	-1.40	3.14
Japan Growth	31.49	33.38	+0.63	
Managed	103.90	110.50	-2.10	2.07
Money Market	95.89	101.60	+0.10	4.95
North American	139.80	148.00	-1.30	...
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	176.80	189.10	-5.12	1.58
European Growth	205.90	218.20	-0.70	
Gilt & Fixed Int	98.97	104.95	-0.36	5.65
Income	147.50	156.95	-1.42	3.14
Japan Growth	32.15	34.08	+0.85	
Managed	107.20	114.00	-2.00	2.06
Money Market	86.11	91.28	+3.15	5.00
North American	156.20	165.60	-1.40	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7177				
American Gwth	658.20	696.40	-10.40	
European Gth Inc	791.30	839.20	+3.50	
-do- Accum	800.00	846.50	-3.50	..
Intl Gwth	297.30	314.70†	-2.90	
UF Equity Inc	304.80	322.40†	-6.30	2.27
Do. Accum	435.40	462.00†	-7.70	2.31
UK Growth Inc	183.30	196.30	-2.00	2.57
-do- Accum	191.80	205.50	-2.30	2.57
UF Ind Trckr Inc	278.60	296.90	-5.20	2.20
-do- Accum	356.30	379.80	-6.90	2.20
US Eq Inc Trk Inc	419.30	443.20†	-3.50	0.76
Japan Tracker	43.74	46.14	-1.68	
Asian Tracker	131.40	141.50†	-8.10	0.98
Mngd Ptflo Inc	242.80	257.90	-3.00	1.33
Mngd Ptflo Acc	270.90	298.00	-3.30	1.33
Deposit Inc	100.12	100.12†	+0.11	6.68
Europa	306.40	327.50	+6.10	..
Genesis	260.10	282.00	+0.63	1.94
High Income	22.14	23.47†	-0.32	10.00
Japan Growth	72.55	76.99	-1.23	
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
American Growth	84.40	86.32	-1.56	
Equity Income #	146.70	150.50†	-1.60	3.28
European	126.10	128.50	+0.53	
Smaller Cos	111.30	116.50	-0.70	0.95
W'wide Eqty	96.35	98.37	-0.60	
Global Bond	40.80	41.23	-0.32	4.33
UF Growth	151.70	156.00†	-1.70	1.01
Pacific Growth	72.13	74.21	-2.10	1.92
Japan Growth	80.26	81.57	-0.74	
OEICS				
Portfolio Acc A ‡	52.61		-2.63	3.35
Portfolio Inc A ‡	52.61		-0.83	3.35
Gilt Acc A ‡	51.48		-0.04	5.97
Gilt Inc A ‡	51.48	..	-0.04	5.97
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	217.11	230.97	-3.48	1.58
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	170.10	179.10	-2.20	0.01
European Dist	238.10	250.60	-1.60	0.13
Far East Dist	124.60	131.40	-4.50	0.05
Global Care Dist	118.70	124.30	-0.60	0.09
Ovsea Dist	1245.50	1311.10†	-15.00	0.13
-do- Accum	1620.70	1706.00	-19.50	0.13
UK Dist	611.80	644.00	-10.50	1.10
-do- Accum	1273.50	1340.50	-21.90	1.10
Uk Extra Inc Dist	126.53	133.50	-1.20	2.02
Wwide Dist.	137.50	144.70†	-1.90	0.11
Wwide Inc Dist	107.90	113.60†	-1.20	1.48
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 0870 601 6147 Admin Enq: 0870 603 9188				
Europe Inc	124.87	131.79†	+0.21	0.18
Fund of Funds Inc	86.20	90.98	-0.96	0.50
North America Inc	90.77	95.80	-0.71	
UK Equity Gth Inc	100.29	105.85	-3.01	1.08
-do- Accum	111.25	117.41	-3.35	1.08
UK General Inc	92.72	97.86†	-1.41	1.11
-do- Accum	105.73	111.56	-1.61	1.11
UK Gilt/Fx Int Inc	50.19	52.86†	-0.19	5.35
UF Income Inc	92.17	97.28	-2.24	1.89
UF Smlr Cos Inc	157.58	166.73†	-0.57	0.98
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 443 000				
American	76.19	81.05	-0.25	
-do- Accum	76.77	81.67	-0.27	
Bond	137.64	146.13	-0.66	4.53
Cash Income	51.24	51.24	+0.07	6.89
-do- Accum	74.51	74.51	+0.09	6.89
Challenger	102.02	108.35	-1.15	1.41
Distributor	150.32	159.59†	-1.42	1.81
European	98.07	104.32	-1.23	
East H. Gth	103.15	110.23	-0.09	2.27
Foundation	149.90	159.46†	+1.39	0.79
Managed Inc	297.11	316.17	-3.51	0.87
Managed Acc	334.38	353.80	-3.68	0.87
Growth Inc	192.92	205.26†	-4.66	0.78
Growth Acc	202.36	215.27†	-5.06	0.78
Higher Income Inc	43.66	47.76†	-0.64	3.69
-do- Accum	62.83	66.93†	-0.57	3.69
High Yield Bond #	101.72	106.25†	-0.99	7.11
Income	404.20	429.95†	-1.37	2.08
Intrepid	189.84	197.74	+0.67	0.92
Intl Gwth	49.01	52.13†	-0.47	
Japan	23.12	24.59	-0.17	
Oriental Inc	113.10	120.31	-4.12	0.34
-do- Accum	117.26	124.74	-4.28	0.34
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	52.82	56.43†	-0.31	4.84
UK Growth	155.30	165.47	+1.19	2.18
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	177.72	187.07†	-1.80	1.12
UK Equity	241.73	254.45	-4.76	1.55
UK Equity Income #	213.62	224.86	-2.84	4.10
UK Smaller Cos	183.80	193.79	-0.57	1.16
UK Equity Growth	208.11	219.05†	-2.62	0.68
UK Index Trckg	242.58	256.02	-5.94	1.78
Intl Index Trckg	214.03	225.29	-2.12	0.48
International	344.93	363.09†	-4.67	0.96
European	397.73	418.66	-4.40	0.14
Far European	252.68	265.98	-2.84	0.71
Nth American	349.27	367.65	-0.36	0.12
N Amer Smlr Cos	381.63	401.72	-2.02	...
Japanese	65.39	68.83	-0.82	1.18
Pacific	160.78	169.24	-3.39	1.38
South East Asian	171.31	180.33†	-4.82	1.63
Sterling Bond	111.46	117.33†	-0.12	5.66
Intl Bond	121.13	127.50	-0.82	4.52
Gilt & Convertible	122.66	129.11	-0.17	5.45
Property	96.68	101.58	+0.10	4.84
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	547.90	586.00	+7.00	..
-do- Accum	582.30	622.80	+7.40	..
Japan Inc	70.35	74.51	-1.95	
Nth American Inc	231.60	245.10	-4.00	..
Worldwide Inc	239.40	254.00	-4.20	..
Hk & China Inc	144.20	154.00	-5.50	1.68
Swiss Equities Inc	138.40	147.50†	-2.30	..
Wwide Bond Inc	67.61	71.44†	-0.27	5.28
Emging Asia Inc	113.70	122.20	-6.30	1.92
-do- Accum	114.60	123.20	-6.30	1.92
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.56	50.56	+0.06	6.65
Thailand Inc	44.51	48.51	-1.23	2.05
New Zealand Inc	80.41	85.40		1.97
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	97.47	104.20†	-1.20	0.20
Latin Am Comp Inc	81.99	87.79	-0.65	0.88
UK All Sh Mkr Inc	100.20	101.70†	-1.80	1.61
Banker Unit Trusts				
Way Global Blue	99.80	106.20	-0.50	0.54
Global Portfolio	87.66	93.75	+0.28	..
Way Global Red	75.98	80.83	-0.30	0.20
Marsh Global Gwth	72.89	77.30†	-0.57	
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	158.30	169.70†	-2.10	0.64
Temple Equity Inc	59.67	64.09	-1.40	1.22
Hadley Growth	179.40	190.90	-1.00	0.27
Intl Growth Inc	73.83	78.96		...
IPS Portfolio Inc	122.90	130.00		
Roxburgh Stkr Gth	77.19	82.56†		0.17
UFC Growth	80.62	86.22†	+0.10	1.05
Charnfield Port of Fds	58.87	62.46	+0.21	0.12
Pyg Intl Equity	93.78	100.30	+0.20	0.12
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 677 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	398.30	423.60	-12.90	1.28
-do- Accum	897.90	955.10	-29.00	1.28
Growth	263.60	277.50	-4.40	1.50
Income	378.90	400.90†	-4.10	2.80
Intl Equity	344.00	365.80	-6.60	0.36
-do- Accum	386.30	410.90	-7.30	0.36
Equity Income #	102.80	109.10	-1.10	4.14
Equity Growth	137.40	146.10	-2.40	1.03
New Europe	159.00	169.10	+0.30	0.18
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	886.86	946.17	-12.86	0.21
-do- Accum	896.83	955.95	-12.99	0.21
Income #	669.25	715.14†	-10.62	3.01
Wwide Recovery	582.18	621.62	-7.82	0.19
Amer Growth Inc	407.83	433.20	-4.80	0.01
-do- Accum	407.83	433.20	-4.60	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	342.45	386.26	-2.34	0.81
Far Esn Grth Inc	224.13	239.72	-9.77	1.49
-do- Accum	228.64	244.54	-9.98	1.49
Euro Gwth Inc	302.31	322.42	-1.51	0.01
-do- Accum	303.36	323.54	-1.52	0.01
UK Growth Inc	165.15	176.45†	-2.47	1.87
-do- Accum	184.96	197.62	-2.76	1.87
High Income #	174.69	186.57	-2.63	3.32
Jap Gwth Inc	128.93	137.82†	-5.76	0.34
-do- Accum	128.93	137.82	-5.76	0.34
PEP Bond	68.52	71.50	+0.05	6.88
PEP Growth	195.72	208.77	-3.33	0.31
Asian Slr Mkts Inc	86.98	93.03	-2.73	0.01
-do- Accum	87.76	93.87	-2.76	0.01
Amer Smlr Co Inc	271.85	289.27	+1.63	0.01
-do- Accum	271.85	289.27	+1.63	0.01
Global Bond	53.89	56.85†	-0.31	3.97
UK Smaller Cos Inc	133.48	142.74	-0.71	1.74
-do- Accum	144.58	154.61	-0.76	1.74
Lat Am Gwth Inc	40.25	42.93	-0.88	0.10
-do- Accum	40.69	43.82	-0.89	0.10
World Inc PEP #	54.12	57.27†	-0.73	3.27
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0151 201 3827				
American	185.73	197.50	+1.79	
European	148.03	157.46	+2.45	
Global	60.34	64.19	+0.63	
Pacific	40.40	42.82†	-0.21	
UK Inc & Grth	111.31	118.41†	-0.20	1.01
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 0171 588 8898				
Asia	41.92	44.48†	-0.54	
Emerg Mkts	42.96	45.58	-1.02	0.37
Euro Fund	63.58	67.46	-0.60	...
Fund of Funds	242.80	256.70	-1.60	0.02
High Income #	65.99	69.46†	-0.10	5.04
Performance	60.23	63.90†	+0.11	...
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 456 832				
Special Sits	265.70	284.20	-5.60	0.33
Dividend	148.90	159.20	-2.10	3.14
Int Gth & Inc	311.30	330.88	-0.60	0.54
UK & Gen	69.57	74.41	-1.15	0.32
Fund of Funds	91.56	97.93†	-0.21	
Bal Growth	82.79	87.24†	-0.09	0.06
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	227.08	235.76	-3.39	2.20
For Prolific UT see Aberdeen Prolific UT				
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing: 0345 400000 Client Enq: 0345 835600				
Managed Tst	54.63	56.61†	-0.74	1.77
Cash Haven Inc	101.78	102.26	+0.11	6.24
Cash Haven Acc	127.22	127.85	+0.14	6.24
Dist Trust Inc	131.11	135.87†	-1.25	4.26
Dist Trust Acc	158.53	164.28	-1.51	4.26
Global Growth	132.76	141.23	-2.09	1.35
Equity Inc	117.27	124.76	-2.41	3.55
Equity	1238.46	1317.50†	-22.20	1.43
European	424.75	440.16	-4.34	0.20
High Income	116.70	124.15	-0.68	4.08
Intl Gth	262.70	279.47	-2.47	0.83
Intl Smr Co	109.52	116.51†	-0.64	0.83
Japanese	118.24	120.46†	-3.76	
Mgd Income Tst #	51.88	53.63	-0.04	7.05
Nth Amer	353.15	365.42	+0.95	0.57
Pacific Mkts	82.06	85.04	-2.45	1.79
Provider Inc	51.35	53.44†	+0.01	5.67
Sm Cos	134.43	143.01	-0.96	1.55
Spec Sits	171.11	182.03	-2.63	1.55
UK Growth	210.39	223.82	-3.81	1.44
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 606 6800				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	114.29	120.18†	-2.33	2.92
Investment Trust	150.51	158.27†	-0.16	0.32
UK Smaller Cos	133.86	140.76	-3.88	1.77
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	490.10	519.00	-10.40	2.12
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000 Client Services: 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	36.48	38.07	-0.68	
Cash	49.74	50.76	+0.00	5.41
Emerging Mkts	49.54	50.69	-0.25	
Europe	96.33	100.60	+0.65	
Global Fixed Int #	49.79	51.99	-0.22	4.51
Japan	28.88	30.16	-0.04	
North America	96.25	100.50	+0.40	
UK	93.13	98.71	-0.57	
UK Equity Inc #	84.29	89.25	-0.25	2.68
UK Fixed Int #	56.65	59.16	+0.11	6.07
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	68.59	71.07	+0.06	
Pep Inc Port #	68.59	71.07	-0.13	2.51
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	36.25	†	-1.62	
Asia Pacific ‡	35.34	†	-0.87	0.62
Europe ‡	57.78	†	+0.05	
Japan ‡	38.17	†	-0.69	
Latin America ‡	40.90	†	-0.43	0.06
North America ‡	55.21	†	-0.16	
UK Eq Income #	58.09	†	-0.54	3.66
UK Major Cos ‡	59.76	†	-0.80	0.41
UK Smaller Cos ‡	62.41	†	-0.14	0.65
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1606.00	1699.00	-34.00	1.14
Equity Income #	161.20	170.50	-2.60	3.51
European	270.70	286.40	-1.60	
High Inc Bond	52.57	52.65	+0.03	5.41
Portfolio	151.20	159.90†	-1.70	0.94
UK Index Trckg	287.60	304.50	-5.30	2.46
UF Leading Cos	122.00	129.00	-2.80	1.64
UK Smaller Cos	160.80	170.10	-0.10	1.03
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	236.60	251.60†	-4.10	2.60
Intl Cautionary	72.46	77.03	-0.64	3.74
Intl Growth	100.10	105.90	-1.10	
Managed	244.70	263.10	-3.30	0.42
Pacific Basin	60.86	64.91	-0.88	0.59
United States	193.90	205.10†	-0.50	0.26
Sun Alliance Trusts				
Far East	126.60	133.90	-1.60	1.22
North America	280.90	300.40	-0.90	
Wwide Bond	54.63	57.40†	-0.34	4.56
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	275.80	292.40	-6.90	0.92
European Growth	256.10	272.10	-0.10	0.82
Far East Growth	101.90	108.50	-1.80	2.58
Japan Growth	81.70	86.68†	-2.03	0.65
Special Sits	286.20	304.40†	+2.00	1.75
UK Growth	148.20	157.60	-1.40	2.13
Intl Growth	361.10	394.20†	-4.30	1.61
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 0500				
Far East Inc	113.80	120.40	-4.30	0.89
Gilt Euro Prog Inc	650.40	686.30	+0.90	0.57
-do- Accum	1028.20	1088.00	+1.00	0.57
Growth Inc	207.60	219.70†	-2.30	0.45
-do- Accum	213.80	226.28†	-2.30	0.45
International Inc	556.40	588.80	-7.10	0.58
-do- Accum	771.90	816.60	-9.80	0.58
Nth Am & Intl Inc	558.30	590.60	-9.80	0.83
UK Gen Prog Inc	369.40	390.90	-0.20	1.05
-do- Accum	434.70	460.00	-0.30	1.05
UK High Inc Inc	207.80	219.90	-2.40	3.48
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	64.22	68.70		0.75
European Gwth	144.05	153.24	+0.66	1.00
Global Bd	59.60	62.95†	-0.06	5.00
Japan	43.35	45.74		
UF Gwth	125.33	133.33	-1.40	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smllr Cos	194.10	206.50	+1.90	
Cash	146.30	146.30†	+0.10	6.97
China Dragon	58.46	62.19	-1.98	0.41
Commodity	116.70	124.10	-0.53	
Emerging Mkts	40.79	43.39	+0.18	0.39
European Gwth	371.60	395.30	-3.00	
Euro Smllr Cos	99.12	105.40	+1.30	
Extra Income #	74.41	77.11	-0.40	4.67
Far Eastern	71.34	75.89	-1.51	
FE Sm Cos	35.55	37.82	-0.30	0.38
Financial Secs	507.80	540.20	+0.20	0.70
Gold & Exploration	40.13	42.69	-0.20	
Growth	632.40	635.60	-7.60	0.41
High Income	54.78	54.78	+0.08	7.01
Intl Bond	154.10	162.80†	-0.80	5.17
ITU	294.90	313.70†	-5.40	0.50
Japan Growth	111.90	118.90	-0.20	
Japan Smaller	95.03	101.10	+2.02	
Korea	18.82	20.02	-0.07	
Latin America	50.54	53.77	-0.07	0.37
Marketmind	82.84	88.26	-0.81	0.75
Premier Eq Gth	251.50	267.60	-3.70	0.80
Premier Eq Inc #	529.30	563.10	-6.50	3.33
SE Asia	30.50	32.45	-1.36	0.71
Southern Africa	55.74	59.30	+0.77	0.72
UK & O'seas	259.10	275.60	-3.40	0.81
UF Eqty Gth	123.70	131.60†	-3.10	0.83
UF Eqty Inc #	375.30	399.30	-3.90	3.25
UF Gth & Inc #	449.50	478.20	-6.80	2.15
UK Sm Cos	77.37	82.31	-0.42	0.18
US Growth	318.40	338.70	-6.80	...
New Europe ‡	56.18	...	-0.11	...
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Cint: 0800 526 535 Bdkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	490.40	517.96	+1.29	0.47
-do- Accum	546.07	576.77	+1.44	0.47
European Gwth	136.62	144.67	-0.23	0.27
Euro Smllr Cos	152.11	161.62	+0.62	0.02
-do- Accum	154.30	163.95	+0.63	0.02
Far Eastern Gth	86.36	91.05	-1.52	0.16
-do- Accum	87.09	92.90	-1.55	0.16
Gilt & Fixed Int #	58.32	61.44†	-0.04	6.98
Global Bond #	44.23	45.70	-0.14	6.01
-do- Accum #	56.93	58.82	-0.18	6.01
Global Emer Mkts	49.77	53.08†	-0.39	0.01
-do- Accum	49.81	53.13†	-0.39	0.01
Income #	575.14	613.48†	-4.00	3.90
-do- Accum #	2056.36	2193.47†	-14.28	3.90
Japan Smllr Cos	201.54	214.97	-0.39	
-do- Accum	201.94	215.40	-0.39	
Japan Enterprise	45.08	48.08†	-0.72	
Pacific Gwth	99.78	106.43	-5.50	1.02
-do- Accum	104.71	111.69	-5.77	1.02
Portfolio	119.56	127.11	-1.22	1.82
-do- Accum	135.88	144.47	-1.39	1.82
Seoul	15.60	16.64	-0.81	0.72
-do- Accum	15.60	16.64	-0.81	0.72
Strategic Inc	125.61	133.63	-0.74	1.81
Strategic Acc	129.61	137.89	-0.76	1.81
Tokyo	98.32	104.87†	-1.26	
-do- Accum	99.31	105.93†	-1.27	
UK Enterprise	462.35	493.18	-0.68	1.73
-do- Accum	589.74	629.05	-0.87	1.73
UK Equity	425.11	453.45	-4.43	1.88
-do- Accum	884.74	943.71	-9.24	1.88
UK Smaller Cos	452.81	482.14	-1.84	0.80
-do- Accum	542.98	579.17	-2.21	0.80
US Smlr Cos	376.02	400.48	+1.83	
-do- Accum	378.02	400.48	+1.83	
Institutional Funds				
European	442.23	458.20	-2.97	0.84
-do- Accum	506.23	524.51	-3.40	0.84
Euro Smllr Cos	48.08	50.06	+0.38	0.74
-do- Accum	52.55	54.72	+0.42	0.74
Global Equity Inc	115.03	119.20†	-0.65	0.83
Japan Smllr Cos	20.00	20.83	-0.10	0.26
-do- Accum	20.23	21.06	-0.11	0.26
Mngd Balanced	275.61	286.86†	-1.84	2.73
-do- Accum	336.53	350.28†	-2.00	2.73
Overseas Equity	243.87	253.94	-2.59	0.82
-do- Accum	259.12	269.18	-2.75	0.82
Overs Smllr Cos	138.43	144.18	+0.41	0.72
-do- Accum	148.16	154.32	+0.44	0.72
Pacific	173.62	180.85†	-6.92	2.58
-do- Accum	197.86	206.10†	-6.47	2.58
Recovery	3131.97	3262.46	+11.51	2.54
-do- Accum	3577.57	3726.63	+13.16	2.54
UK Index	266.99	278.11	-4.82	2.45
-do- Accum	357.09	371.97	-6.18	2.45
UK Small Cos	180.86	187.56	-0.62	2.31
-do- Accum	205.97	214.55	-0.70	2.31
US Smllr Cos	88.09	91.58†	+0.07	0.34
-do- Accum	91.22	94.84†	+0.33	0.34
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	86.54	91.52	-0.55	1.49
Equity Trust	114.48	121.04	-0.63	1.89
Equity Strategy	116.80	123.52	-0.74	0.95
European Opps	161.83	171.14	-1.36	0.21
UK Smaller Cos	95.87	101.38	-0.69	0.98
Medium Inc	99.23	101.81	+0.12	5.96
Japanese	44.40	46.95	-1.72	
Asia Pacific	81.80	86.50	-2.38	1.40
American	198.10	209.13	+0.42	0.52
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	35.85	35.85	+0.04	6.65
UK Eq Gwth Inc	88.01	91.58	-1.82	2.12
-do- Accum	119.81	127.35	-2.53	2.12
Intl Income	381.05	405.83†	-5.42	1.31
-do- Accum	684.52	729.03†	-9.74	1.31
European	161.85	171.81	-0.72	0.84
Japan	45.73	48.43	-1.02	
American	150.01	158.53	-0.73	0.75
Far East Tact	61.46	65.56	-2.38	1.94
Ethical Inc	51.67	55.26	+0.02	1.39
-do- Accum	60.85	65.08	+0.02	1.39
UK Blue Chip Inc	57.10	60.88	-1.33	2.08
-do- Accum	71.23	75.94	-1.67	2.08
UK Equity Inc	60.63	64.67	-1.34	3.19
-do- Accum	92.02	98.15	-2.04	3.19
UK Global Inc	67.38	71.80	-0.67	1.34
-do- Accum	75.14	80.07	-0.75	1.34
Wwide Tact	112.26	119.70†	-1.40	0.99
Europe Tactical	118.71	126.76	-0.94	0.48
Technology	211.23	224.06†	+2.07	0.41
Dist Inc	31.74	33.67	-0.28	5.04
-do- Accum	34.18	36.28	-0.30	5.04
UK Eql Inc Inc	26.87	28.38†	+0.01	6.95
-do- Accum	30.05	31.73†	...	6.95
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	725.30	771.70	-15.10	1.56
American	490.70	519.20	-6.20	0.14
Pacific	293.60	313.50	-8.40	0.33
European	950.80	1010.80	-10.60	0.54
Worldwide	106.80	113.40	-1.90	0.25
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	471.60	501.70	-9.30	1.50
-do- Accum	638.80	679.50	-12.80	1.52
UK Str Co Eq Inc	312.10	332.00	-0.60	1.63
-do- Accum	390.70	415.60	-0.80	1.63
Select Opprty Inc	115.00	123.60†	-0.70	1.27
Income Plus Inc	122.80	130.60†	-1.70	3.15
European Inc	652.90	694.20†	-5.70	0.47
-do- Accum	757.40	805.40	-6.50	0.47
Far Eastern Inc	119.80	127.40†	-3.90	1.28
-do- Accum	140.80	149.70	-4.50	1.28
Japanese Inc	41.61	44.28†	-0.83	..
Nth American Inc	496.60	529.20	-4.90	
-do- Accum	552.40	588.20	-5.40	
Intl Growth Inc	264.20	280.90	-3.00	0.20
Wwide Venture Inc	115.90	123.20†	-1.20	0.24
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	620.40	655.50	-4.90	1.64
-do- Accum	978.50	1034.00	-8.00	1.64
UK High Inc #	297.60	314.40	-2.90	2.85
-do- Accum #	481.50	508.70	-4.70	2.85
Europe Inc	737.10	778.70	-9.60	0.14
Nth Amer Inc	430.50	454.80	-8.90	...
Global Inc	319.10	337.10	-4.50	0.13
Global Acc	346.40	366.00	-4.80	0.13
UK Spec Sits Inc	173.90	183.70	-1.09	1.41
South East Asia	135.00	142.60	-6.20	0.80
Cash Trust Inc	102.00	102.00	+0.10	6.60
UK Smlr Cos Inc	147.30	155.70	-0.20	1.72
-do- Accum	158.60	167.60	-0.20	1.72
Intl Bond Inc	87.07	91.44	-0.74	3.26
International Strat	100.20	106.10	+0.40	...
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	241.80	254.30	+0.30	0.14
Nth American	188.40	198.30	-4.20	
Intl Bond & Conv	139.60	148.90	-0.40	5.44
Pooled Pension	318.40	342.40	-3.50	1.86
Smaller Cos	155.50	163.70	-0.60	0.84
UK General #	234.70	247.00	-4.70	1.74
Far Eastern	60.52	63.71†	-2.56	0.93
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Continental	138.50	147.10	+0.10	0.60
Global Gwth	102.40	108.00	-1.10	0.50
Inv Tst Port	73.24	77.91	-0.86	1.80
Managed	1726.71	1804.62	-30.35	2.10
Pref Inc #	116.60	124.20†	+0.30	6.08
Smaller Cos	328.27	349.10	+0.90	0.88
Ireland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	121.91	†	-1.19	2.85
Sterling Reserve ‡	100.46	.. †	+0.16	7.00
Corporate Inc ‡	107.64	†	+0.27	6.00
Tar Pan ‡	79.45	†	-1.85	
Aztec ‡	82.49	†	+0.16	
Amer Sth Fund ‡	188.69	†	0.67	
European ‡	246.86	†	-1.37	
Global Bond ‡	88.12	†	-0.42	6.25
Samurai ‡	39.21	†	-0.79	
UF Growth ‡	140.64	†	1.88	2.85
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	107.35	... †	-0.86	2.56
Investment Tust	138.53	†	-1.99	2.59
The Football Fd	83.73	†	+0.21	
Reserve Roll Up	104.81		-0.12	
Dmark Reserve	97.73	.. †	+0.01	3.72
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 53				
American	637.20	673.00	+2.20	
Capital	194.90	208.20	-1.40	0.92
Cash	100.51	100.51†	+0.12	6.68
European	235.70	249.30	+2.10	0.10
Far Eastern	131.50	139.10	-0.90	
Growth	238.40	252.20	-0.60	0.88
Income #	188.60	199.50†	-0.40	4.62
Magnum	199.20	210.80	-0.60	1.05
Smlr Secs	790.40	838.40†	-3.18	
Throughbred	233.20	246.80†	-0.40	0.91
SOCIETE GENERALE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dealing Dsk 0171 615 0062				
UF Growth Acc	97.01	103.28	-0.60	1.45
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 731 093				
Credit France	68.07	72.76	+0.51	6.50
Ethical	104.10	111.30	-0.40	0.86
European Growth	124.90	132.40	-1.10	
Income	80.78	86.39	-0.72	3.77
Intl Growth	132.70	140.60	-1.70	0.12
Managed	124.60	132.00	1.40	0.16
UK Growth	96.87	103.60	-0.10	1.09
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 3353				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtr Inc	58.82	59.12	-0.24	1.34
Global Advtr Acc	64.85	65.18	-0.27	1.34
Income Advtg Inc	51.22	51.48	-0.36	2.47
Income Advtg Acc	62.48	62.80	-0.43	2.47
UK Eqity Gh Acc	154.50	163.80	+0.60	0.69
Premier Inc	54.93	56.86	-0.05	6.04
Premier Inc Acc	63.97	66.21	-0.05	6.04
Managed Acc	81.09	85.96	-0.29	1.59
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	59.09	62.64	-0.20	3.03
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	83.02	88.01	-0.27	3.03
UK Ethical	52.69	54.54	+0.19	1.16
UK Smlr Co Acc	71.78	76.09	+0.58	0.48
Standard Lf Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gn Acc	118.60	126.10	-0.80	1.11
UK Equity Gn Inc	82.98	88.17	-0.52	1.11
Gilt & Fxd Inc	34.94	36.95	-0.03	5.51
Overs Lrg C Acc	417.50	453.00	-4.60	1.95
Nth America Acc	81.52	86.62	-0.96	
Pacific Basin	31.90	33.90	-0.52	1.20
European Acc	83.53	88.76	-0.19	0.13
Japan Acc	19.91	21.16	-0.49	
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 300				
Global A (NG)	6.120	6.501	+0.07	1.76
US Eqts (US)	4.995	5.294	+0.07	0.62
Far East Eqtyern	236.10	250.50	+2.50	
FT Europe	237.18	251.08	+3.68	0.09
FT N Amer (S$)	4.534	4.816	+0.05	
FT Japan (ye)	130.80	138.20	-2.10	
FT Asia Ex Ja (US$)	2.279	2.420	-0.01	0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 371				
American	671.20	709.10	-11.20	
British #	1791.20	1895.10	-30.60	2.05
Emerg Mkts	167.10	177.60	-1.40	0.83
Euro Gwth Ic	147.10	155.90	-0.10	
Euro Small Ic	76.79	81.78	-0.13	
Japan	85.03	90.17	-0.66	
Asia Pacific	333.80	355.50	-4.10	1.62
-do- Accum	363.20	386.80	-4.40	1.62
Inv Trust Acc	378.80	401.60	-5.10	0.90
Mngd Equity	270.40	286.10	-8.50	1.72
Mngd Cash	95.61	95.61	+0.11	6.66
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 25				
Asia Pacific	15.50	16.49†	-0.53	1.92
Corp Bd Gth Inc	106.77	113.59†	+0.09	6.05
Corp Bd & Gt Acc	121.28	129.02†	+0.11	6.05
European	80.37	85.50		0.17
Japan	25.46	27.08	-0.46	0.01
Managed Assets	187.01	200.01	-2.51	1.23
North American	65.82	70.02	-0.54	0.30
Smlr Co's Ic	46.99	49.99	-0.14	1.31
Smlr Co's Ac	52.57	55.93	-0.15	1.31
UK Growth Ic	92.75	98.67	-1.69	1.28
UK Growth Ac	107.87	114.75	-1.97	1.28
Extra Income #	64.34	68.81	-1.05	3.48
Worldwide Gth	53.59	57.30	-0.47	0.18
For Sun Lifesee AXA Sun Life Fd Mngrs Ltd				
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 346794				
American	442.79	468.56	-2.99	1.00
-do- Accum	487.71	516.09	-3.30	1.00
Brit Growth	178.06	188.42†	-4.32	1.03
-do- Accum	226.36	239.54†	-5.48	1.03
European	191.25	202.38	-1.25	1.36
-do- Accum	204.28	216.16	-1.33	1.36
Extra Income #	301.96	319.53	-5.03	3.50
-do- Accum #	584.14	618.13	-9.73	3.50
Smaller Cos	110.79	117.24†	-0.20	0.73
-do- Accum	128.20	135.66†	-0.23	0.73
General	514.44	544.38	-9.77	1.43
-do- Accum	1124.22	1189.65	-21.35	1.43
Premier Income	57.25	59.64	+0.01	5.27
-do- Accum	154.56	161.00	+0.04	5.27
Income #	546.98	578.79	-11.39	3.18
-do- Accum #	1324.70	1401.80	-27.59	3.18
Pacific	260.80	275.98	-6.15	0.48
-do- Accum	274.03	289.98	-6.47	0.48
International	815.48	862.95†	-14.51	0.12
-do- Accum	1078.71	1141.49†	-18.01	0.12
Nat Resources	132.80	140.53†	-2.09	0.36
Sicial Opps	185.70	196.51†	-3.16	1.27
-do- Accum	247.55	261.96†	-4.21	1.27
Environmental Inv	125.20	132.49	-2.08	0.63
Selector	103.09	109.09	-1.75	1.19
-do- Accum	121.90	129.00	-2.06	1.19
High Income #	97.72	103.40	-1.52	3.30
-do- Accum #	140.59	148.77	-2.18	3.30
Intl Income	64.26	68.00†	-0.71	3.87
-do- Accum	90.44	95.70†	-0.99	3.87
Selector Income	86.32	91.34†	-2.37	3.32
-do- Accum	115.08	121.77†	-1.67	3.32
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0800 435810				
British	587.96	618.91	-11.08	1.76
European	126.71	132.69	-0.34	1.17
TEMPLETON INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Templeton Funds (OEI				
Alpha Shares				
Growth Acc ‡	344.69		-0.41	3.57
Growth Inc ‡	290.51		-0.34	3.57
Balanced Acc ‡	285.63		+0.55	4.89
Balanced Inc ‡	227.05		+0.44	4.89
Value Acc ‡	212.04		-0.26	2.82
Value Inc ‡	185.60		-0.22	2.82
Beta Shares (250,000 minimum)				
Growth Acc ‡	1006.03			3.57
Growth Inc ‡	1006.04			3.57
Balanced Acc ‡	1006.18		..	4.88
Balanced Inc ‡	1006.20			4.88
THORNHILL UNIT TT MGRS LTD				
0171 629 0662				
Capital	129.70	138.00	-3.90	0.51
International	90.04	95.73	+0.21	..
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
Client Serv 0800 068000 Inter Serv 0800 0684000				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Funds				
Adv Mgd Gth Acc	56.11	58.75	+0.46	0.89
Bal Mgd Gth Acc	55.95	58.58	+0.34	2.83
Caut Mg Gth Acc	55.76	58.38	+0.18	4.14
Managed Income	55.80	58.42†	+0.26	3.66
Threadneedle Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1				
UK				
UK Corporate Bd ‡	53.83	†	+0.01	8.46
UK Equity Inc #	60.70	†	-0.96	3.35
UK Growth ‡	60.69	†	-0.99	1.28
UK Grth & Inc ‡	55.82	†	-0.90	1.49
UK Money Secs ‡	50.41	†	+0.03	7.13
UK Monthly Inc #	58.21	†	-0.92	3.36
UK Select Gwth ‡	60.99	†	-0.85	1.18
UK Smaller Cos ‡	59.91	†	-0.31	1.22
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	54.39	.. †	-0.40	
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	56.46	†	-0.33	
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	58.48	†	+0.71	
Asia Growth ‡	34.20	†	-1.12	0.72
Emg Mkt Bd Fd #	52.95	†	-0.62	7.19
European Growth ‡	86.93	†	+0.61	
Euro Sel Gwth ‡	64.36	†	+0.17	
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	67.36	†	+1.33	
FE&Jap Gwth Acc ‡	32.52	†	-1.04	0.69
Global Bond ‡	51.12	†	-0.31	6.33
Glb Sel Gth Acc ‡	52.62	†	-0.60	
Japan Gwth Acc ‡	34.28	†	-0.34	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	52.33	†	+0.71	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	51.71	†	-0.84	
Institutional Shares Class 2) (500,000 min)				
UK				
UK Equity Inc #	60.74	†	-0.95	3.35
UK Growth ‡	60.71	†	-0.99	1.35
UK Grth & Inc ‡	55.85	†	-0.89	1.99
UK Inst Grth ‡	60.45	†	-1.03	2.09
UK Overs Engs ‡	58.50	†	-0.75	1.80
UK Select Gwth ‡	61.02	†	-0.83	1.65
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	59.95	†	-0.29	1.72
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	54.56	†	-0.39	
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	56.85	†	-0.33	
Amer Sm Cos Gth	58.56	... †	+0.72	
Asia Growth Acc ‡	34.33	†	-1.11	1.21
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	67.13	†	+0.62	0.37
Euro Sel Gth Acc	64.57	†	+0.18	0.19
Euro Sm Cos Gth	67.48	†	+1.33	0.18
FE & Jap Gth Acc	32.61	†	-1.03	0.59
Global Bond ‡	51.24	†	-0.29	6.33
Japan Growth Acc	34.39	†	-0.34	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	52.42	†	+0.74	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	51.72	†	-0.85	0.39
UNITED FRIENDLY UT MGMT LTD				
01277 690 336				
UK Eq Inc Acc #	476.24	506.64	-7.65	3.26
UK Equity Gwth	513.54	546.32†	-8.57	1.32
European	284.43	302.58†	+0.31	0.20
Nth American	124.56	132.51	-1.17	0.03
Far Eastern	57.01	60.65	-0.73	0.35
Money	76.83	76.83	+0.09	6.57
Fixed Interest #	93.77	99.39	-0.15	7.09
Index Linked Gilt	85.31	90.49†	-0.06	1.22
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	113.93	113.93†	-0.02	5.59
Pens Growth	146.35	146.35	-3.52	
Pens Inc Protec	118.61	118.61	-0.03	
UK Index Trackr @	186.27	186.27†	-4.50	1.50
WAVERLEY UT TST MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7451				
Australasian Gold	14.38	15.14†		
Pacific Basin	23.39	24.62		
Global Bond (US)	0.9754	1.0160		
Penny Share	45.61	48.01		
Japan Smlr Cos	27.22	28.65		
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 244				
Short Dtd Gilt	132.30	133.60†	+0.10	
US Govt Bd (US)	0.8256	0.8342	+0.00	
Gilt Income	53.29	54.12†		6.18
Gilt Growth	91.31	92.72	-0.06	
Sterling Bond	53.49	54.38	-0.02	5.89
WOOLWICH UT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0161 298 400				
Intl Mgd	73.64	78.17	-0.75	1.54
UK Stockmarket	146.40	155.50	-1.10	1.84
Corporate Bd Inc	51.80	51.93	+0.07	5.22
Do Accum	57.58	57.70	+0.08	5.22

Source, FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge.





POWERFUL PEPS 57

Rich pickings for the single-minded

WEEKEND MONEY

LESS IS MORE 63

Big things expected of smaller stocks



Patrick Collinson explains the reasons why an old savings vehicle is enjoying a new lease of life

More investors take a punt on Premium Bonds

Ernie, the Premium Bond computer prize picker, could be forgiven for blowing a fuse. More Premium Bonds have been sold in the past 36 months than in the previous 37 years as serious investors replace grannies as the big buyers.

More than 120,000 people now have the maximum £20,000 investment in Premium Bonds allowed by National Savings, and a total of 23 million people hold Premium Bonds. In the past 12 months five and a half million Premium Bond holders have shared £429 million in prizes, with 49 people winning the £1 million jackpot in the past three years.

Figures released yesterday by National Savings reveal that the year to April 5, 1998, was the best ever for Premium Bond sales since Ernie picked the first winner in 1957. Sales last year were £3.2 billion, up 23 per cent on the previous year.

The reason for the sales boom is that payouts on Premium Bonds can more than equal the interest rates paid on deposit accounts, without even factoring in the potential for winning the £1 million jackpot.

Take the example of someone who holds the maximum Premium Bond investment of £20,000. On average they can expect to receive ten £50 prizes and three £100 prizes every year, according to a National Savings spokeswoman. That works out as a return of £800 on a £20,000 investment, or 4 per cent. But Premium Bond prizes are tax-free, so for a 40 per cent taxpayer, the average payout is worth a gross amount of £1,333, or 6.67 per cent. Even for a basic-rate taxpayer, the average payout is worth 5 per cent gross.

The returns compare well against Halifax's Premium Savings Direct account, which offers a someone with £20,000 deposited 7.65 per cent gross, but just 4.59 per cent net for a 40 per cent taxpayer.

The best strategy to win prizes is to take out a large number of Premium Bonds and hold on to them for a long time, says James Higgins, investment adviser with Chamberlain de Broe, the London broker.

He said: "We recently had someone who took out £20,000 worth of Premium Bonds and had a £10,000 win within the first year. But other clients with large holdings have also had a steady stream of £50 and £100 prizes. For people who hold bonds over the longer term, we are seeing that they are getting at least what they would earn from leaving the money in a deposit account. We have never had people who never earned a bean."

The excitement of possibly winning the jackpot gives Premium Bonds the edge over savings accounts, says Graham Hooper, of Chase de Vere Investments. He said: "It's much better odds than the Lottery and you still keep the money you put in. People also love winning prizes. If you get £1,000 off a £20,000 investment, it's only 5 per cent, but people look at it very positively. It's a different mindset to other investments."

Yet not everybody is happy with the distribution of prizes. One reader of *The Times*, Peter Couillault, from Tring in Hertfordshire, wrote recently to complain that smaller and more recent bond buyers appear to be scooping the big prizes rather than bigger investors.

He said: "Once again we see that a holder with just £1,000 has won the jackpot. One month it is £20,000, then the following month it is one-twentieth of that amount. I have had over £16,000 for more than three years and my prizes have actually gone down. Furthermore, most of the top prizes were recently purchased, and this is clearly evident by the first four letters and numbers of the bond."

But a National Savings spokeswoman rejects the criticisms. She said: "If you look at the 49 winners of the £1 million monthly jackpot, nine have had the maximum holding of £20,000 and many others have had large Premium Bond holdings. So your reader's suggestion is not borne out by the facts, although small holdings do win. Each Premium Bond has exactly the same chance as the next of winning any prize in the monthly draws — the odds are 19,000 to one.

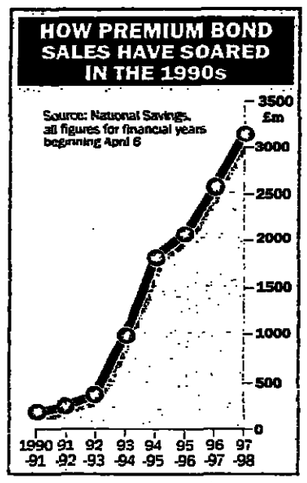
"What affects your chances is the number of bonds you have — the more bonds, the more chances you have in each draw and so the more chances of winning," she said.

Premium Bond holders have also complained that Ernie appears to be biased towards bond holders in the South of England. Indeed, the figures reveal that of the 49 jackpot winners, 33 live in the South, with eight in Surrey alone. But National Savings insists that this is simply representative of the fact that more bond holders live in southern England than elsewhere in Britain.



Premium Bond sales have hit heights not seen since Bill Haley and the Comets were riding high in 1957

HOW PREMIUM BOND SALES HAVE SOARED IN THE 1990s



QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q Can anyone buy Premium Bonds and what is the minimum purchase allowed?

A If you are aged 16 or over you can buy the bonds for yourself. But bonds can only be bought for children under 16 by their parents, (great) grandparents or guardians. The minimum for each purchase is £100. Purchases above £100 are in multiples of £10. You can hold up to a maximum of £20,000.

Q Do I stand more chance of winning with consecutive numbers?

A No. A £500 bond comprising 500 consecutive numbers has no more chance of winning than several different Bonds which add up to £500. Each £1 unit has a separate and equal chance of winning.

Q How do I buy my bonds and do they go straight into the draw?

A They can be bought at a post office or direct from National Savings, who will send them to you within 15 working days. Bonds can win prizes once they have been held for a complete calendar month.

Q How do I know if I have won and is my name given to the press if I win the jackpot?

A National Savings will contact bond holders directly, so it is important to keep them informed of any change of address. As for publicity, the legislation governing Premium Bonds keeps names confidential.

Q What happens to unclaimed prizes?

A If the prize winner cannot be contacted, National Savings will hold on to the prize until the winner gets in touch. Unlike the National Lottery, there is no time limit for claims.

Q What does Ernie stand for?

A Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment. The Ernie computer has been replaced several times since it first came into use more than 30 years ago.

Q Is Ernie really random, and can it ever leave out my number?

A Yes. National Savings says it takes a lot of care to ensure numbers are picked at random and Ernie is not programmed to produce any particular number or prefix or to favour any part of the country. Once your bond is eligible it will take part every month until it is cashed in.

Q How do I cash in my bonds?

A Bonds can be cashed in without notice, by asking for a bond repayment form and pre-addressed envelope at your local post office. National Savings will return the money within eight working days of receiving the form and can pay the money directly into a bank or building society account.

Q What happens to my bonds if I die?

A The value of bonds can be left in a will, but not the actual bonds because they are not transferable. Bonds remain eligible for prizes for only 12 months after the death of the holder, so they should be cashed in during this period.

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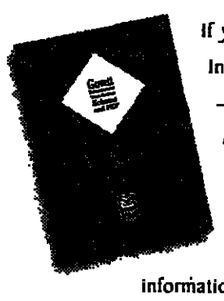
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A lost market for new issues

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Share prices have been booming for three years. But one traditional sign of a mature bull market has been missing. Bank of England statistics for March record simply: "There were no large equity issues this month." Only one, a £100 million oil rights issue, was even announced. Records kept by KPMG show that flotations are down from 113 in 1996 to 97 last year, raising £3.5 billion against £10.1 billion in 1996. The first quarter of 1998 was the leanest for nine years, 11 companies raising just £210 million.

The KPMG figures show one reason why. In the same quarter, management buyouts raised £5.3 billion. No wonder that venture capital trusts dominate the money list of recent issues, spiced by a few arrivals on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM). Expect a venture capital debacle in due time.

The lack of rights issues can easily be explained. All that restructuring and downsizing has yielded such bounteous cashflow that many big groups are repaying equity. Others can easily borrow at historically low rates. And too few are investing in expansion. Either way, buybacks and lack of cash calls bankroll institutions to buy existing stocks and drive prices up.

The shortage of smaller flotations has more complex causes. City interests decided years ago that they no longer needed private investors to back newly floated companies. By squeezing the public out, costs could be cut and the benefits kept for professionals. In contrast to other retail business, buying new shares has been made more complex and less convenient. The public offer, which enabled investors to buy shares in young companies off the page, like Peps, has virtually died.

Even AIM, which got off the ground because private investors ventured in where institutions feared to tread, has been progressively taken over. Venture capital often views AIM flotations as a last-resort disposal option, a cause for some caution. Gordon Brown is removing most of the tax appeal too. The Finance Bill stops the former privilege, in about a third of AIM stocks, to roll over capital gains, although certain new issues can still attract relief. AIM stocks are not eligible for Peps on grounds of risk. As yet, they will not be allowed in Isas either, so private investors may be squeezed out again.

Former mutuals aside, these developments have turned new issues into a market for fund managers. As most of these are sheeplike, it has become a fashion market, to be wheeled in an out according to this season's taste. In 1997 the share boom passed smaller companies by. The FTSE 100 index gained about 30 per cent, the Cap index 6 per cent. A home and factory focus was supposed to leave smaller fry at the mercy of rising UK interest and exchange rates. This argument has not changed but fund managers are desperate for value. So this year, the sheep are grazing on smaller pastures.

Little shares are now rising in line with big ones. Just as poor performance led to a low birthrate of new quotations, return to favour should lead to indiscriminate breeding later this year. A few fireworks, such as the 25 per cent first-day gain on the Ottakar's bookshop chain this week, will enthuse the institutions that benefited. Private investors should not get carried away.

Flotations that do not even include an open offer imply that the vendors are more interested in cashing in the past than building a future. Later, when the field is crowded and the flock of fund managers moves on, vendors may be cynically inclined to woo private investors more.

Entrepreneurs and investors would both benefit from a more genuine revival of the private market for new issues, if the City would permit it. New cost-effective techniques could be developed, perhaps by combining off-the-page buying with information on the Internet. Meanwhile, the patient and dedicated can still profit by searching out the few newcomers who see flotation as a beginning rather than an end.

Healthy prospects for cash plans

Medical cash plans may be no substitute for private medical insurance (PMI). But while the numbers of people with PMI have changed little since 1990, cash plans — offered by around 28 organisations, some of them small regional mutual organisations — are growing in popularity.

Some six million people now have cash plans, which pay out for everyday health needs. You will not be able to jump an 18-month NHS queue for a non-emergency operation. But when you are in hospital, you will receive a lump sum to cover out-of-pocket expenses.

Boots, the high street retailer, is now offering medical cash plans underwritten by Royal & SunAlliance.

Cash plans give you cash back when you are ill or spend money on a health-related treatment such as going to the opticians, dentist, chiropodist or physiotherapist. Some will also help with alternative therapies such as acupuncture. While PMI premiums are governed by age, where you live and the state of your health, cash plan premiums are largely the same for everyone.

One reason for the growing popularity of cash plans is their relative simplicity. George Connelly of Health Care Matters, a firm that advises on PMI, said: "People buy PMI with their hearts instead of their heads. It is often too late when people realise that there are limits on their cover. With cash plans, what you see is what you get."

However, cash plans are still difficult to compare. Boots will be offering five different types of cover — family health, dental, pregnancy, accident and child injury cover.

The family health scheme, the core product, offers the choice of two levels of cover — Gold at £16 a month and Silver at half the price but with half the cover.

HSA, the market leader, charges just under £14 a month and offers 21 benefits. WPA and BCWA offer fewer benefits and charge £17.72 and £12.64 a month respectively.

Dr Penny O'Nions, a healthcare specialist, said: "It appears to be a deliberate decision by the insurance companies to design products which cannot be compared on a like-for-like basis. However, some are clearly designed to appeal to certain categories of family such as the BCWA, which provides for the lower-income family that wishes to use the plan as a type of substitute for an income replacement policy in the event of hospitalisation, whereas the HSA is the best all-rounder choice for the older family."

SUSAN EMMETT



Patients are paid "expenses"

*Source: Micropal, all figures offer to bid, gross income reinvested, for periods ending 1/3/98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them is not guaranteed and can fall as well as rise. The Portfolio Trust has been available as a PEP since January 1995. Full written terms and conditions are available on request. For your security, all calls are recorded. Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England, no 2170242, is a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. Registered Office 1 Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business, and by IMRO.

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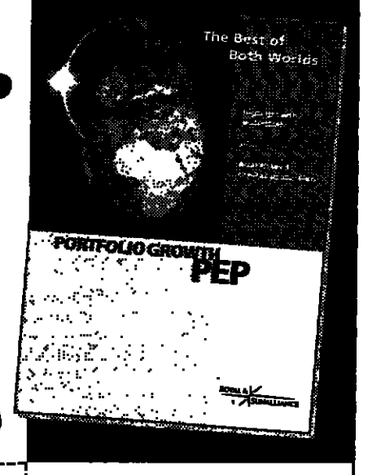
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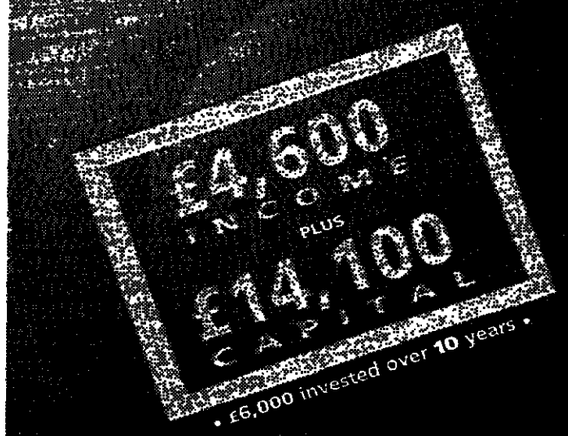
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هكذا في الأصل

Watchdog's head in sand, too



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

The ostrich could justifiably hold a grudge against the investment industry. First he featured in ill-fated get-rich-quick schemes. Now he is to star in the new pensions television advertisement, cast as the sad so-and-so who cannot face reality. But while the ostrich should be discussing with his agent roles where he does not bury his head in the sand, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) may be praised for this reworking of an old idea.

The investor watchdog has devised the advertisement as a way of reaching the disillusioned millions sold unsuitable personal pensions who have yet to be compensated. They are failing to respond to insurers' letters, believing that the envelope contains an invitation to invest in more shoddy schemes. The campaign shows that the FSA aspires to put the concerns of consumers before those of the financial services industry. Under the previous system of regulation, the life insurance companies, in particular, held sway among the watchdogs. One small example of their dominance was the impenetrable reduction in yield calculation which shows the impact of charges on the return from a pension. Few of us are any the wiser, exactly as the insurers wished.

This new drive to ensure that all the victims of misselling are properly compensated should be accompanied by a reform of the compensation arrangements covering all investors. On pages 58-59, we explain the defects of this system. You would, for example, imagine that a person who asked for his money to be put into National Savings, but found instead that his authorised adviser was a thief, was eligible for help from the Investors Compensation Scheme. But, no. The FSA must itself not be ostrich-like over such injustices.

Gucci Ernie

ERNIE, born in 1957, is proving that life is fabulous at 40. Premium Bond sales are surging, as the well-heeled recognise the benefits of the tax-free return. For this group, Premium Bonds are the perfect flutter: the chance of a £1 million jackpot, without National Lottery vulgarity and the guarantee that your stake money will be returned. National Savings should now do more for investors of modest means. Its Investment Account pays 4.75 per cent, while comparable accounts pay 7 per cent. Otherwise we will conclude that National Savings is becoming the Gucci of the sector, rather than the supermarket.

Spring clean

Susan Emmett gets out her financial mop and bucket



The cold, wet weather may have stopped you reaching for the mop, but spring cleaning is not just about scrubbing the doorstep. With the start of the new financial year, now is also the ideal time to give your personal finances a polish.

■ **SAVINGS:** With so much competition in the savings market, banks and building societies have been busy overhauling their accounts and it is possible that you are stuck with an uncompetitive product. Notice accounts traditionally offer better rates but some of the rates paid on instant access products are looking very competitive at the moment, with many topping the 7 per cent mark. It is also always useful to set aside an emergency fund in a bank or building society. Fiona Price, of Fiona Price and Partners, said: "Aim to have around £3,000 for any unexpected costs that may arise." For information on all accounts, consult *Moneyfacts* (01692 500765 for a free copy).

■ **PENSIONS:** For many, a pension is the bedrock of financial planning. If you have access to a company scheme, consider joining it; if not, look into personal pensions. Spring is also a good time to review pensions in terms of performance and the use of reliefs. Having recently completed your tax return, you are now in a good position to know whether you can boost your pension plan by tapping into unused relief. This applies if you have not paid in the maximum allowable in previous years. If you are approaching retirement you might want to consider increasing premium payments or making an additional voluntary contribution (AVC). To pick a personal pension, read BESt Investment's *Best Pension* (£25). Call: 0171-321 0100.

■ **INVESTMENTS:** Personal equity plans and tax exempt special savings accounts will be consigned to the history books at the end of this financial year but if you are looking to invest for the medium to long term they are still a good bet. Although the new individual savings account will replace both of these products next April, those with savings in a Tessa will be able to keep their investments until they reach maturity. Year-end information is also useful to see how your portfolio of investments has performed and consider whether you could get a better deal elsewhere. If you have used all your Pep and Tessa allowances look into other forms of collective investments such as unit and investment trusts.

■ **MORTGAGES:** Many people will soon find that their mortgage payments have gone up because of annual adjustments. Now may be a good time to see if there is any merit in shifting to another lender. If you are on a variable rate, owe less than 85-90 per cent of the value of your property and have been with the same lender for over three years, then a move is worth considering. Philip Cartwright of London and Country Mortgages said the National Counties Building Society would pay the remortgaging costs of those taking out its discount mortgage. The discount of 1.7 per cent runs for two years on its 8.29 per cent variable rate.

■ **INSURANCE:** Have you had children since you last overhauled your finances? Do you have adequate life insurance arranged? Also consider permanent health (income replacement) and critical illness cover. House insurance: Does your contents policy provide adequate cover for your possessions? Have you been with the same insurer for years? Do not just accept your renewal notice. Shop around.

■ **WILLS and INHERITANCE TAX:** Wills are important to ensure that your assets are distributed according to your wishes, particularly if you have dependants or are not married to your partner. If you die intestate, friends and family might not be provided for properly. Even if you have a will, it is worth reviewing especially if you have married or divorced. It is also important to consider inheritance tax. Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, the finance house, said: "It takes everyone ages to get round to doing anything about inheritance tax. Giving it some thought now might be a good idea."

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Helen Pridham looks at the options available when you change jobs

A moving moment

YOU AND YOUR PENSION

Research has shown that men have an average of eight jobs during their working lives, with women not far behind. This means that most people will be involved in a variety of different pension arrangements during their careers. Some jobs may provide a company pension but others won't. You will probably have to reconsider your position every time you move.

When you leave a job where you had a pension, you will have a number of options. You can transfer the cash equivalent of your pension to your next employer's pension scheme or into your own pension policy. But the simplest option is to leave your pension where it is. This is not as unattractive as it sounds.

Charlotte Clarke, pension transfer consultant at Towry Law, the independent financial advisers, says: "People still talk about frozen pensions and assume they will be able to do better elsewhere. If they leave their pension in a final salary scheme they will have a known amount which will increase, in line with prices."

Pension schemes must now revalue the benefits of early leavers to reflect rises in the retail price index up to a maximum of 5 per cent per annum. It is only worth transferring your money elsewhere if you think you can beat this outcome. Other benefits also need to be taken into account, such as spouses' pensions and increases in your pension at retirement.

Towry Law points out that it is generally inadvisable for civil servants, teachers and local authority employees to transfer to a new employer's scheme or a personal pension plan because their old pension schemes offer full inflation-proofing of benefits which few other schemes can match.

For other employees, Elaine Flower, senior consultant at William Mercer, the benefit consultant, says "There may be some good reasons to consider a transfer but employees need to take advice."

You may be able to get advice from your employer's own financial advisers if you are moving jobs because you are being made redundant. If you are changing jobs by choice, you could ask to speak to your new employer's financial advisers.

Deciding whether to transfer your pension to a new employer's scheme is particularly difficult. Ms Flower says "No two schemes are the same and the calculations made by your new scheme's actuaries will be different from those made in the one you have left. If you transfer, you are likely to be credited with fewer years of pensionable service. What you must assess is whether your salary is likely to rise faster than the new scheme's actuaries have assumed. If you are expecting a promotion you could be well advised to make a transfer."

If you transfer from a final salary scheme to a personal pension or another scheme, known in the jargon as a section 32 buyout plan, your eventual pension will be determined by the investment performance achieved by the insurance company. A few years ago when mis-selling of personal pensions occurred, some people were wrongly advised to transfer into personal pensions. Nowadays the Personal Investment Authority requires financial advisers and salesmen to carry out a full "transfer analysis" comparing the merits of the employee's old scheme and the new product.

Insurance companies now have special computer programmes for this purpose. John Turton, pensions specialist at BESt Investment, the independent financial adviser, explains: "What these programmes do is show a break-even yield that indicates the rate of investment growth the new plan must achieve in order to provide a client with at least as good a pension as the one he or she would get from staying in his or her old company scheme.

"If the break-even yield is 8 per cent per annum or less, a transfer is worth considering. If it is in excess of 10 per cent or 11 per cent, it isn't. If the rate lies between these figures, then you will be taking a bit of a flyer."

Mr Turton believes that those most likely to benefit from a transfer to a personal pension are under-35, single people or those in same-sex relationships. He says: "For younger people there is more time for a personal pension to outperform a deferred pension in their old employer's scheme. For single people and those with same-sex partners, a personal pension can be tailored to their requirements, whereas an occupational scheme will usually provide a spouse's pension whether it is needed or not."

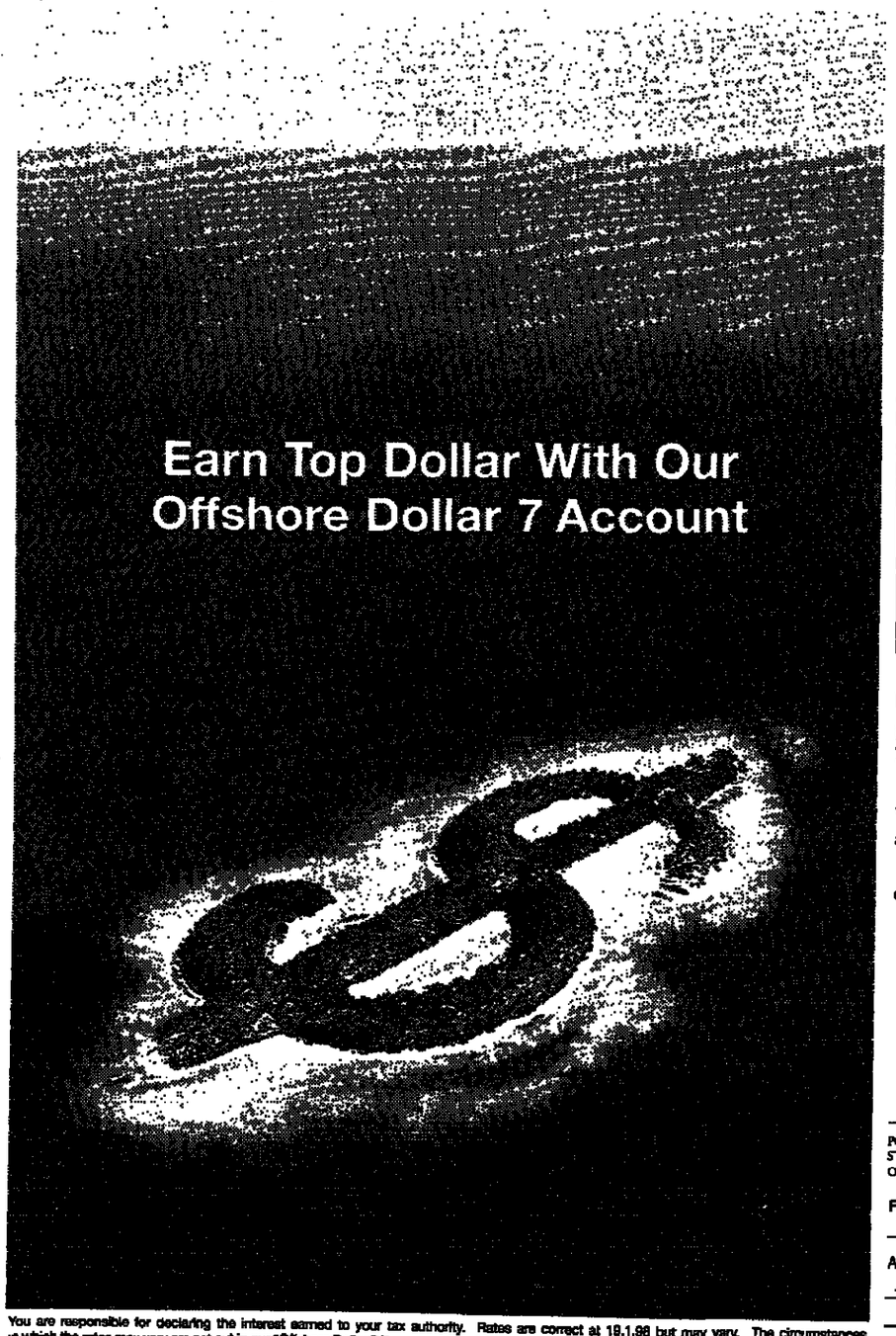
A section 32 buyout plan may be more appropriate if you want to preserve certain aspects of your previous employer's pension such as death benefits. Mr Turton says that normally anyone within 15 years of retirement who is in a conventional relationship will be better off leaving their pension where it is unless they are approaching retirement and want to take money from their fund under an "income drawdown" arrangement.

If your previous employer's scheme was money-purchase, where your pension depends on the amount in your fund at retirement, a transfer is also likely to be inadvisable.

BBC TV



For the single under-35s, like those in *Game On*, moving a pension could make sense



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Pure puree? Sauce for pasta is made from "engineered" tomatoes that ripen more firmly and are cheaper to process

High risk and reward of buying bio shares

You must be ready to lose all, says **Caroline Merrell**

Biotechnology companies catch the imagination of the private investor. Small, innovative, with the potential for offering spectacular returns, some of the most headline-grabbing scientific innovations in recent years have been on the back of biotechnology product development. While sheep cloning and giant wheat strains make worldwide news, some more mundane everyday innovations are also the product of biotechnology enterprise.

For example, few people would realise that the tomato puree on sale in Safeways has been genetically engineered to make it tastier and cheaper to produce. The company that developed riper, firmer tomatoes is the biotechnology division of the Zeneca, the drugs giant.

The rising private investor interest in the biotech sector can be seen in figures produced by Charles Schwab, the execution-only stockbroker. He reports that Chiroscience, a UK biotech company, is one of the most highly traded shares in the UK, alongside household names such as BT and Halifax.

People moving into the sector must observe a few basic investment rules. Matthew Orr, of the stockbroker Killik & Co, says they must be prepared to lose all their money. Most fledgeling biotech companies have only one, or a limited range of products which have to go through a complicated series of trials before they can be properly marketed — this process can take up to ten years, and only one in 100 products clears all the hurdles.

Mr Orr said: "We risk-rate stocks on a scale of one to nine, biotech stocks rank nine."

Investors must be prepared to take a long-term view because companies will not begin to make a profit until their products are on the market. Generally they rely on venture capital or the backing of a bigger company to help to get their products off the ground. Mr Orr says investors should check the amount of cash on the balance sheet. "It is no good investing in a company about to run out of money."

Two companies illustrate the risks and the rewards: Biocompatibles was trading at more than £14 per share in the middle of last year. The price fell to around £4 , when it became apparent the company had failed to secure a distribution deal for its blood vessel product.

At the beginning of this year the shares halved again, to reach 215p, when the chief executive resigned. Now they stand at around the 130p level.



BBC TV

Cloned: Dolly the marvel

The second company, Chiroscience, looks set to be the first UK biotechnology firm to bring a drug to the market. It is an anaesthetic called Chirocaine and has fewer side-effects than other anaesthetics. The company recently signed a distribution deal with Zeneca and the share price rose 23 per cent in a week.

There is also a relatively small number of shares to choose from, which adds to the risk in the sector. In the UK there are 35 quoted biotechnology stocks, compared with 320 in the US. The American companies are quoted on Nasdaq, with information carried on the Internet.

Nick Wolfe, of BA Robertson Stevens, the American stockbrokers, said choosing the right shares was very difficult. "You must look at the quality of the management and whether the products will fulfil a need in the market."

Valuations are hard to assess and he advised potential investors to look at projected earnings growth and how likely the earnings would be achieved. A company hoping to produce a drug that had already gone through two stages of clinical testing, for example, might make a better bet than a company that was in the preliminary stages.

Mr Wolfe said it was worth comparing the prices of companies that had similar earnings potential to see which offered better value.

Advisers involved in biotech say investors should minimise risk by investing in a portfolio of different shares, or, they should choose one of the three specialist biotech funds available. Two, run by Rothschild Asset Management, invest in biotech companies internationally — they also hold stakes in unquoted biotech companies. The performance of these funds has been erratic, again reflecting the volatility of the sector. Finsbury also runs a specialist fund.

Mr Wolfe believes that this year will be a good one for UK biotech companies. He said: "It is an important year, with many companies in phase two of testing their products." Shares he favours are Cantab, and Chiroscience.

Edinburgh feels urge to merge its unit trusts

TRUST WATCH

The urge to merge is fast catching on among fund managers, with Edinburgh Fund Managers the most recent to announce amalgamation plans.

Edinburgh has said it anticipates amalgamating several of its unit trusts in the next few months, starting with its UK Income & Growth Fund linking with the Edinburgh Growth & Income Fund. Shareholders have approved already and the new fund will be called the Edinburgh UK Growth Fund.

The new fund has around £65 million under management, and the investment objective is to concentrate on capital growth over the long term through investment in UK companies.

The UK Income & Growth Fund was launched in 1936 and the Growth & Income Fund was set up in 1986 by its original managers, Dunedin, and later acquired by Edinburgh. Marianne Cantley, marketing manager for Edinburgh Fund Managers, says the motive for merging is to rationalise overlapping funds. She said: "We have a wide range of unit trusts and where their objectives are broadly similar there is no need for separate funds."

Investors are unlikely to notice significant changes although Edinburgh will change the charging structure. The management fee remains 1.25 per cent, but while previously it was charged equally to income and capital, it will be charged wholly to income.

Ian Millward, an investment marketing director at Chase de Vere, an independent financial adviser, said: "This bucks the trend and is a reasonably good move, though investors should be aware that it will affect the yield slightly."

Edinburgh has not said which other funds may be rationalised but Ms Cantley said: "It is likely to be two or three in the next few months."

The trend of mergers is set to continue as part of housekeeping by fund managers. Last year M&G proposed a number of changes to its range of funds, including two mergers which will take effect later this year. Mergers may follow a period of new fund launches that will bring in more money than merely keeping existing funds. The attraction to a manager will wane if there is too much of an overlap in investment objectives between funds.

Investors need not be alarmed if proposals to merge funds are put before them, provided, say financial advisers, the investment objectives remain the same. "The key is to look carefully before you invest, to make sure you are dealing with a good group," says Ian Millward at Chase de Vere. Fewer funds might mean that each gets more attention from managers.

Edinburgh Fund Managers, in common with other groups such as Fidelity Investments, has also said it is looking at the converting to an OEIC — an open-ended investment company. The introduction of these means that fund managers can offer a range of trusts under one umbrella, and market them to investors in Europe.

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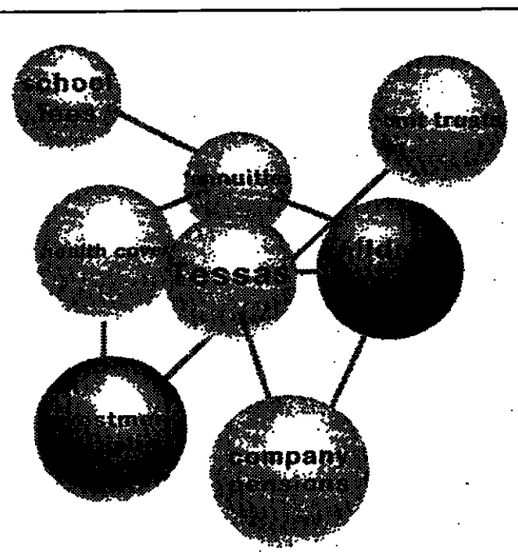
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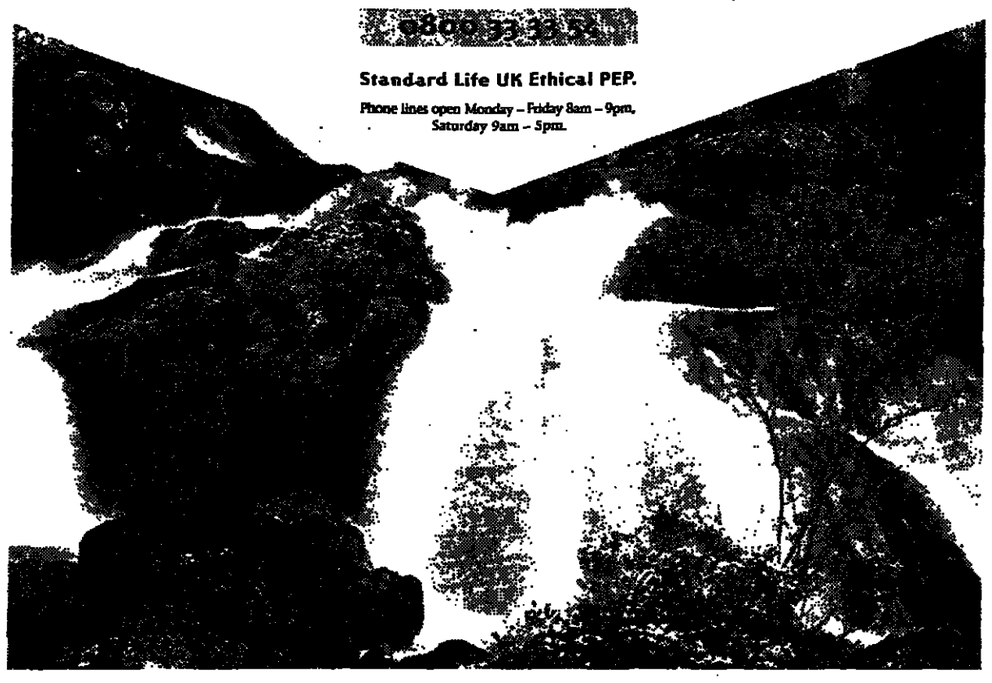
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Swinging Sixties: cars made before 1973, such as the Mini, will soon be the only ones to be spared road tax

Classic way to save

The Budget ended a valuable tax concession for the older vehicle, but various routes to cheaper insurance remain open, says Clare Stewart

Owners of classic cars will be looking even more closely at the cost of their enthusiasm in the wake of the nasty surprise lurking in last month's Budget. Since 1995, cars more than 25 years old have been exempt from road tax, but that rolling exemption will end on January 1, 1999, and only cars listed before January 1973 will be eligible.

The change is expected to affect thousands of classic car owners every year. They will now face the full cost of road tax even though they may use their cars only on a restricted basis to keep mileage down and insurance premiums low.

For the cost-conscious car owner, there is some comfort to be had when it comes to insurance, given the number of specialist insurers competing for the business.

The definition of "classic car" is somewhat elastic. Although some people might consider it to apply only to cars more than 15 years old, insurers have had to widen their definition to include more recent high-performance or prestige makes, such as Porsche.

It is worth shopping around among brokers and companies offering specialist cover, to find which are most interested in your type of car. Membership of a classic car club is also useful because many have links with insurers, and members can claim discounts if they use them.

Hastings Direct is one of the newer entrants to the market. It has launched a classic car policy selling direct, rather than through brokers.

Mileage is one of the main factors likely to affect the premium paid, say brokers, and policies that are based on restricted mileage generally specify a maximum of 3,000 to 5,000 miles annually, though some are more flexible. Other insurers differ. Gordon Cashin, of Norton Insurance, says: "We are not that focused on that limited mileage." The premium will be more influenced, he adds, by factors such as the ages of drivers and where they live.

Insurers, in assessing risk, also look closely at what the car will be used for. In broad terms, according to Mr Cashin, owners divide into two camps. "There is the enthusiast who covets the vehicle and cherishes it, keeping it wrapped up in the garage," he says. "But there is also the enthusiast who wants as much use as possible out of the car."

As with more modern cars, the premium will reflect where the car is kept and whether the vehicle has a fitted security system — two important factors if you live in a city or a big town.

One difference from ordinary cars concerns value. Independent Insurance, one of the larger providers of specialist cover, advises owners to have an up-to-date valuation of a classic car, and to ensure that the figure is agreed with the insurer.

Unlike most vehicles, classic cars' values will fluctuate according to less predictable factors such as changes in taste. Age and condition, as well as the rarity of the model, will also be assessed. Without an agreed value, an owner may be in for a nasty surprise if a claim has to be made, and may find that an assessor is rather less impressed with the car.

Competition in the market has prompted insurers to add extras as part of the insurance package. Both Norton and Independent Insurance, for example, offer breakdown and rescue services, with Norton having extended the cover to Europe since January at no extra cost to policyholders.

For motorists who swap a modern vehicle for a classic car, Classic Line will retain any no-claims bonus to ensure that it does not lapse. A no-claims bonus is not necessary for classic car insurance, says Darren Coote, new business manager for Classic Line, but a car owner who forgets about his no-claims bonus while whizzing about in a 1970 MG may find that he has lost out if and when he returns to driving a family saloon.

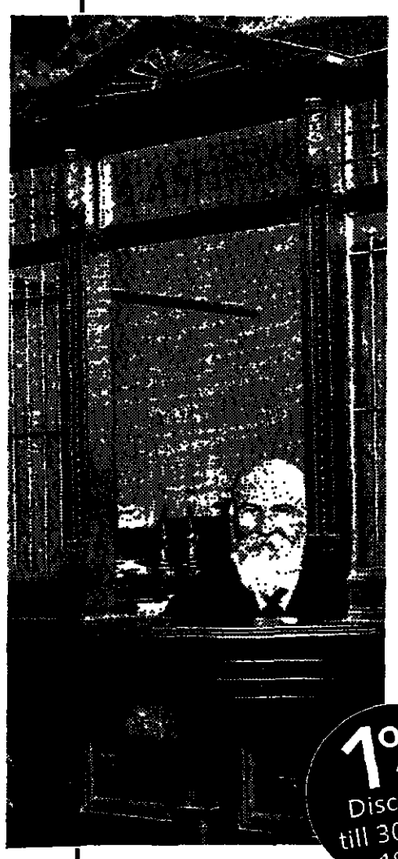
It is also worth checking whether a policy covers items such as spare parts that you may have collected in order to maintain the car. Travel in Europe is another extra that may be included.

Premiums in the classic car market do not follow the same pattern as those in the main car market. Overall, recent increases have been modest, and some brokers say that prices have been held and that they do not expect to see any increases this year.

For information on classic car insurers, contact the British Insurance and Investment Brokers Association on 0171-623 9043. Specialist magazines and the various owners' car clubs are also a good source of information.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Taxing problem of Budget timing

From Mr S. O'Connor

Sir, Henry Stern (Paper chase by the Revenue, Weekend Money Letters, March 28) explains that in common with millions of other taxpayers he received a 1998-99 notice of tax coding in February. No sooner had this notice of coding been issued than the Budget on March 17 changed the tax allowances, with the result that the Inland Revenue (IR) will have to issue millions of revised notices of coding.

Unfortunately, if the IR had waited until after the Budget it would have been unable to issue the notices of coding for 1998-99 in time for employees' first pay cheques in 1998-99 to be processed.

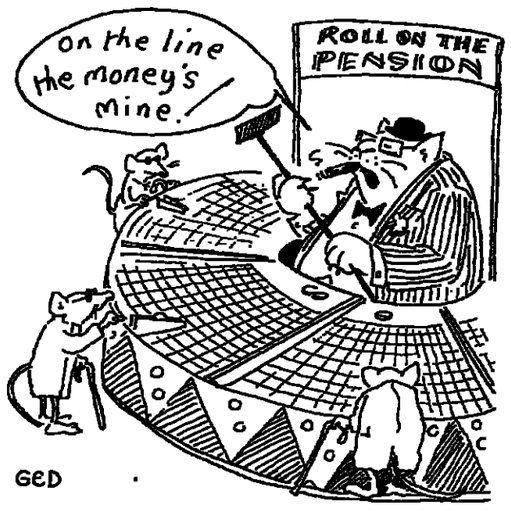
This raises the wider issue as to the best time of year to hold the Budget. Up until tax year 1993-94, the Budget was held in the month before the start of the tax year concerned, with the public spending plans for the tax year concerned having been set out the previous November. For tax year 1994-95 the system was changed; thus the November 1993 Budget set out the tax and public spending plans for tax year 1994-95. Presenting the Budget in November also avoided the problem to which Mr Stern refers, since the tax allowances for 1994-95 were settled in time for the IR to issue initially correct notices of tax coding in early March 1994.

Since then we have had two Budgets — an "interim" Budget in July 1997, followed by the March 1998 Budget. It seems likely that the Budget has now reverted to March.

The main motivation to the Treasury for changing the Budget back to March appears to be found in the timing of the increases in road fuel duty. The change in the timing of the Budget has enabled the Treasury to impose two full year increases in road fuel duties — one in July 1997 and one in March 1998 — during the 16-month period November 1996 to March 1998. According to Treasury figures, this will permanently increase the tax take by around £1 billion per annum, raising the same extra annual revenue as an increase in the basic rate of income tax by around ½p in the pound.

Yours faithfully,
S. O'CONNOR,
Chantrey Vellacott,
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square,
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Big business or big brother



From Mr Maurice Jay

Sir, Although, as a pensioner, I am not directly affected, I am very concerned by the proposed "reform" of pension provision. Is it actually proposed that everyone will be compelled to take out a personal pension scheme with a commercial, profit-making company? If so, what about those people who would prefer to make alternative provision for their retirement years, such as investing in property, saving with a building society or investing directly in stocks and shares?

The idea that a government can force citizens to purchase something from a commercial company, whether they wish to or not, is an exceedingly novel one.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE JAY,
15 Waterlow Court, Heath Close, London, NW11 7DT.

Stark reminder for homebuyers

From Mr Peter McKendrick

Sir, In his summary of the mortgage market (Limits are eased as loans rise, April 4), Patrick Collinson offers a stark reminder of the boom conditions accompanied by often irresponsible lending policies, which led to unprecedented levels of bad debt, house repossessions and negative equity during the late 1980s.

The obvious message this sends out to the prospective homebuyer of today is that caution and regard for the longer term remains the best advice in dealing with revitalised lenders and spring in the air.

Yours faithfully,
PETER McKENDRICK,
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square,
London, SW1P 3AD.

■ *The Times* regrets that it cannot give individual replies to any letters. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice given in these columns. Independent professional advice should always be sought over all financial and investment matters.

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Conal Gregory finds the old-fashioned elegance of longcases has become highly sought-after, while

Antique clocks prove that time is money

There are three ways in which a longcase clock is appealing: as a timepiece, an attractive item of furniture and an investment with the potential for appreciation. Some examples associated with famous places or people are now selling for as much as £185,000, although more modest clocks can be had for £600.

The first thing you need to remember is never to call a longcase a "grandfather clock" as this will mark you out as an ignoramus among the collecting cognoscenti, who regard the description "grandfather" as a nasty euphemism.

The earliest longcases date from 1657 when the pendulum was invented to regulate weight-driven clocks and the long case was developed to protect the weights and associated mechanism. Many continental clockmakers were attracted to the court of Charles II, making England the centre of longcase clock production.

If you are looking for a longcase to grace your hall, experts say that the highest values are placed on clocks of good proportions in rich coloured woods with good patina. Three key parts help to determine the value of a longcase: the quality and proportions of the wooden surround, the dial and the movement. Experts also point out the large price variations between pieces made in town and country.

Maintenance is another issue. Longcases carry a mechanical part which must be regularly serviced. Restoring a non-working longcase is expensive, which means that you should buy only through a reputable dealer — preferably one who belongs to the British Antique Dealers' Association.

The workings of a clock can reveal whether the piece has been tampered with. While a wheel or pinion in the mechanism may need replacing over time, and even the feet of a clock, you should take care that little further work has taken place. Check that when the hood is removed, wooden strips have not been fixed to the dial's surround. This means the dial has been taken from another clock.

You should first familiarise yourself with the woods used for cases. Solid oak was popular for country clocks. James Stratton of Phillips, the auctioneers, says the price for an eight-day movement clock with a painted dial has risen from between £500 and £800 to between £600 and £900 since 1992. Brass dial prices have increased from £900 to £1,200.

Walnut was the leading early quality wood. A walnut Tewkesbury brass dial eight-day longcase, circa 1735, with a lunar calendar, date and second hand by Moore, 7ft 6in in height, has risen from £5,500 five years ago to £8,000, according to Montpellier Clocks of Cheltenham.

Next you need to get to know the big names and the most sought-after styles. A fine walnut 11in dial, eight-day movement by Christopher Gould, circa 1695, made £1,750 25 years ago. Today a good Gould, circa 1710, is being offered at £42,500 by Raffety, the dealer.

Lacquer longcases flourished between 1710 and 1770 and carried oriental symbols. Such "Chinoiserie" is greatly sought-after, particularly where it has not suffered from temperature changes over the years.

Mahogany, imported from the West Indies and Central America, became a popular wood in Georgian times. Stephen Jarrett of Witney Antiques in Oxfordshire says to look for slim, dark examples.

A single, driving weight suspended from a chain or rope usually means a clock has only 30 hours' duration and needs to be wound daily. Expect to pay about half the price of an eight-day movement, which carries two driving weights.

Ben Knight, director of clocks at Christie's offers two tips: buy pre-1670 wherever possible (particularly the makers Edward East, Ellicott, Fromanteel and Joseph Knibb) and, in country sources, Liverpool longcases which are "undervalued" at £3,000-£5,000 and should make £6,000-£8,000.

Scottish longcases are good value, says Oliver Saunders of Bonhams. A good mahogany circular dial, circa 1760, from Scotland has risen from £800-£900 in 1992 to £2,000 now.

If painted dials appeal, look for Edinburgh, Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester makers. Local scenes such as ships around the dial can be charming. Avoid the clumsy wide examples often made in Lancashire and Yorkshire 1830-40 with large 14in dials.

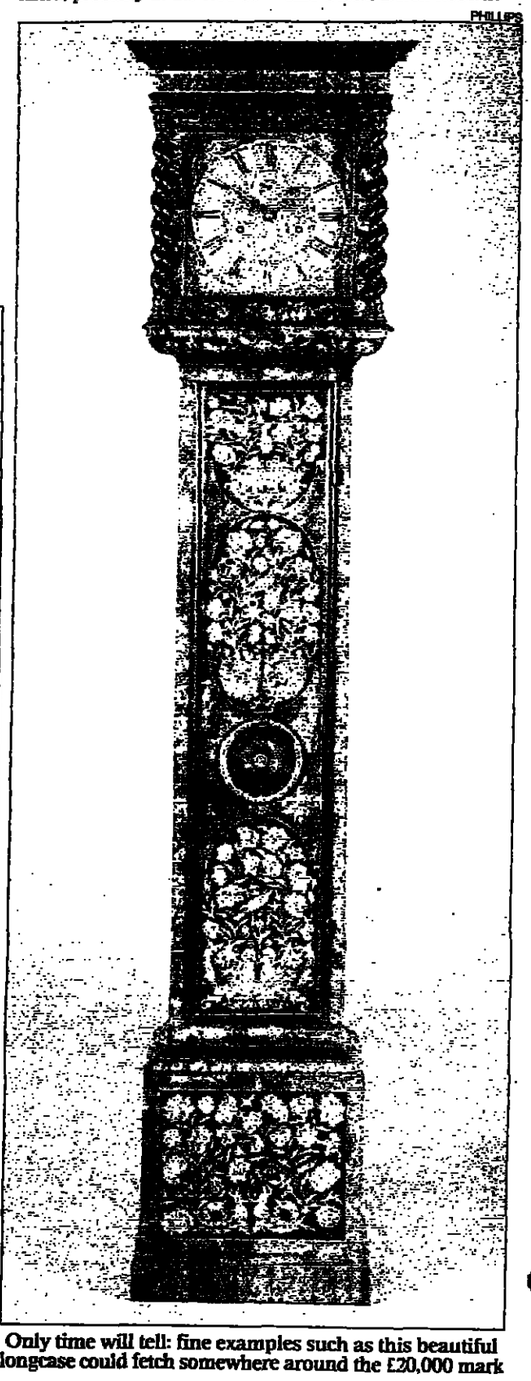
Signatures of leading makers on the dial should give confidence, but some were faked, probably in the 1950-60 era. "Judge the entire clock and movement, rather than place overreliance on the signature," says Toby Birch of Montpellier Clocks.

The quality of the leading makers gives them a distinct price edge. Last month Phillips sold a Daniel Delander 1710 walnut 7ft 8in for £34,500 because the maker invented the Duplex escapement — the part that regulates it.

Provenance can markedly boost the price. A Hamilton Knibb burr walnut 10in brass dial, 79in tall longcase, circa 1679, was offered by Raffety at last month's BADA Fair for £185,000. This price reflects that the clock came from Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh.

Key reading: *The Longcase Clock*, Tom Robinson; *Brass Dial Clocks*, Brian Loomes; *Painted Dial Clocks*, Brian Loomes; *The English Longcase Clock*, Derek Roberts.

PHILLIPS



Only time will tell: fine examples such as this beautiful longcase could fetch somewhere around the £20,000 mark

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Patrick Collinson sees rich pickings to be had for the single-minded Pep investor


PETER LOMAS

On the right track: Steve Gebbett and his wife have both earned small fortunes by investing their Railtrack shares in single-company Peps

Focused approach pays off

INVESTMENT A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

Single-company Peps are the forgotten corner of the investment market, widely ignored amid the overwhelming advertising for unit trust Peps. Yet single-company Peps can be one of the cheapest ways of investing and offer superb returns — if you pick the right share.

The rules allow investors to shelter up to £3,000 of one company's shares from the taxman each year, on top of the £6,000 allowance for investing in a general Pep such as a unit trust or investment trust Pep.

But investors have to hurry — Peps will be ring-fenced from April next year, when the individual savings accounts (Isas) are introduced, with lower overall investment limits. It is worth remembering that a husband and wife each have a Pep allowance, meaning that a married couple can put a maximum of £18,000 out of the reach of the taxman before Isas begin.

Many firms, particularly those in the FTSE 100, offer a Pep in their own shares for no initial charge or, at most, a flat fee of £25. But there is usually a dealing charge of around 0.25 per cent and an annual management fee of up to 0.75 per cent.

Single-company Peps boomed last year when the holders of shares in the demutualising building societies and insurance companies were encouraged to shelter the shares in a "windfall" Pep.

But single-company Peps carry a much higher level of risk than general Peps. Investors can find themselves in an investment straitjacket without the option for a transfer to another company's stock.

Despite the extra risk, many investors have enjoyed superb returns as the stock market soared. One fortunate investor is Steve Gebbett. Every day for the last 29 years he has caught the morning train from Epsom to Waterloo, but in just two years of putting Railtrack shares into a single-company Pep Mr Gebbett has made more than enough to pay for a lifetime of commuting.

Mr Gebbett applied for Railtrack shares in the ballot when they were floated in May 1996 and then placed the shares in a single-company Pep. The following year he topped up with another £3,000 worth, which he again put in a single-company Pep.

He said: "I've now got 1,562 shares worth £16,447 at the current share price of £10.53. In total they cost me £6,000, and there hasn't been any tax to pay. The thing is, I did the same for my wife. She's also got 1,562 shares in her two Peps, which means that for a total £12,000 investment we have shares worth £32,895."

But why did Mr Gebbett pick Railtrack? "It's got a good, steady revenue stream from the way it levies the train operating companies," he explains. "I realised that it owned a lot of undervalued property and I suspected it could become involved in a lot of major projects such as the Channel rail link and London Underground."

He says he is holding on to the shares despite the fact that they have jumped from 380p to more than £10 in just 23 months. "I am occasionally tempted to sell them to buy a nice sports car, but I think the upside potential for the shares is still very strong."

Should Mr Gebbett buy more Railtrack shares for his final single-company Pep this year? Weekend Money asked the experts.

■ Alan Durrant, UK equities director, Hargreaves Lansdown: "Railtrack remains in our top 20. It is not the bargain it was, but when you look at growth and price/earnings multiples for FTSE stocks, it is still very reasonable. We think public transport is a growth business. I work in Bristol and it can take two hours to travel across the city in a car. Over the next five to ten years the issue of public transport will have to be addressed. True, its investment commitments are enormous, but shareholders do know how much money they are going to have to spend.

■ Clive Sleckney, investment adviser, The Share Centre: "I am quite happy holding Railtrack. The rating is reasonable, even after recent rises, because it is still less than the market average price/earnings ratio. It is currently in our top-ten buy list.

■ Paul Kavanagh, partner, Killik & Co: "It strikes me that both shares are fully valued. There is no harm in taking profits in the short term. They have had a pretty cosy ride since the election and now it's quite hard to find value. Having said that, I believe that the market in general still has some way to go up because of the amount of money that is still coming in to the market."

■ Mark Howard, managing director, Maddison Monetary Management: "Railtrack is still looking good. It is a good single-company Pep for the long term. But don't expect to a quick buck in the short term."

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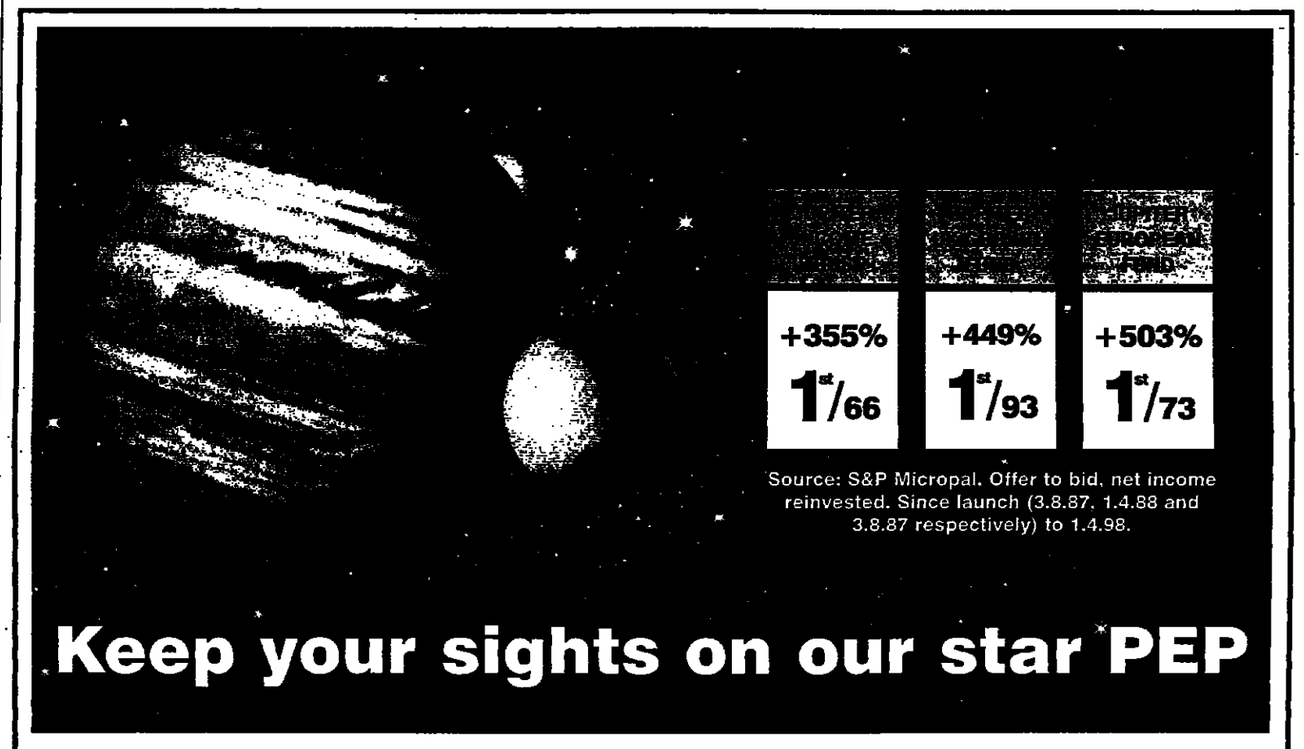
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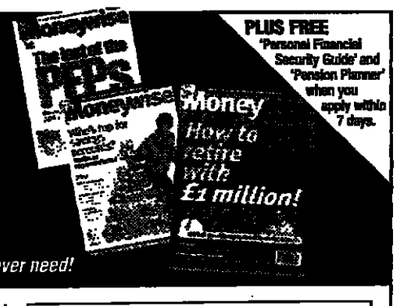
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2. Name(s) of Account Holders

6. Reference number
12 001-4 5541

3. Branch Sort Code (from the top right hand corner of your cheque)

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Please pay ID Publications Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with ID Publications and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society

4. Bank/Building Society account number

Signature(s) Date

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A collection of nationwide firms of independent mortgage advisors marketing exclusive mortgage products from major lenders. TI03

Typical Example A £60,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £100,000 repaid over 25 years assuming completion on 30/6/98. 36 gross monthly repayments of £335.00 at 7.74% (variable) followed by 276 at 5.74% (discount from the lender's normal base variable mortgage rate for the first three years from completion followed by 276 gross monthly repayments of £435.00 at the lender's normal base variable mortgage rate (current, 8.74% (APR 9.7%)) In practice the lender's normal base variable mortgage rate may go up or down from time to time. The APR may vary. Total amount payable £118,560.00 which takes no account of a lender's arrangement fee of £495 payable on completion normally added to the loan, a mortgage discharge fee of £125, a valuation fee of £30 assumed repaid over 3 years, a £150 bank account opening fee of £3.92 (including collection of funds valuation fee). The total amount payable excludes any endowment policy. The cash is not subject to repayment provisions. Written instructions are required on receipt. Credit broker fees of up to 1% of the amount borrowed may be charged over and above the mortgage. Loans secured on property. Mortgage secured on property. *Is payable for early repayment only in the first three years. Repayment fees: year 1 repay total cashback received plus 2% of the loan; years 2 and 3 repay total cashback received plus 2% of the loan; years 4 and 5 repay total cashback received plus 1% of the loan; years 5 and 6 repay total cashback received. Repayment one month's interest in advance. The initial mortgage is £500 or less by, no longer to the borrowers, by cheque after receipt of the first complete month's monthly repayment. A second cashback of £1,000 is subsequently payable on the former in December 1999. Where loan exceeds 90% of the lower of the purchase price or valuation of the property, an additional "Mortgage Security Fee will be required by the lender. Independent Mortgage Collection Limited is not Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AA. The rates and examples in this advertisement *Represents the monthly saving in gross interest arising from a 2% discount on a £60,000 loan at the variable rate of 8.74%. TI03

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Caroline Merrell and **Gavin Lumsden** consider the proposed improvements for

Watchdogs ready to...

The Financial Services Authority (FSA), the new super-regulator, aims to improve investor protection by bringing together all the existing watchdogs under one roof. One of the opening gambits was the launch last week of an investor-protection advertisement featuring an ostrich with its head buried in the sand. The campaign, which is the first time that a regulator has advertised on television, aims to alert up to two million people that they might have been mis-sold a personal pension.

The ads encourage those who could be mis-selling victims to write off for a factsheet on the scandal, where hundreds of thousands of people have been encouraged to give up rights to occupational schemes to take out a personal pension. Compensating victims could cost the industry around £11 billion in claims.

The 30-second commercial will try to encourage those who have been mis-sold a personal pension to respond to any letters that may have been sent to them by insurance companies. It urges people to take active steps, such as getting further information or contacting their firm, should they be in any doubt about whether their case should be reviewed.

Ron Devlin, director of the FSA's pensions review, said: "The film needs to appeal to a wide audience on a subject that is usually considered dull. We have to find a lively way to get the message across. The ostrich is a memorable way of communicating the need for investors to take active steps if they are in any doubt about their personal pension."

The current system of investor protection can be a minefield for the unwary. An alphabet soup of organisations, regulators and trade organisations proliferate in the financial services community.

Investors who feel they have a grievance may find it difficult to know where to complain or where to seek financial redress. Banks, building societies, insurance companies and investment houses all have separate regulating authorities with different rules governing complaints. Separate ombudsmen exist for the varying investment products, and where to complain will often depend on how the product was sold in the first place.

For instance, those with problems about company pension schemes go to the Pensions Ombudsman, those with grievances against banks and building societies can go to the Bank and Building Society Ombudsmen. Those who have problems with products offered by companies regulated by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) go to the Investment Ombudsman. The Insurance Ombudsman deals with complaints about general insurance products, while complaints about personal pensions come under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman of the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), not under the Pensions Ombudsman, as might be expected.

This latter deals with complaints about investments, personal equity plans, savings plans and endowment products; and as such has by far the biggest caseload of complaints. With this many organisations, it is easy to see why investors get confused about where to take their grievances. Tony Holland.

One that got away from the safety net

The Investors' Compensation Scheme is deemed to be the ultimate safety net for those who have had a raw deal at the hands of a financial adviser. However, it does have some loopholes, as is graphically illustrated by Graeme Duncan, a retired driver from Aberdeen.

Mr Duncan said: "In 1995 I gave a sum of £16,000 to a company of financial advisers, Caledonian Investments, to be invested in National Savings Bonds. A few months later the fraud squad was called in and the company was put into liquidation.

"I was told that I would be compensated from the Investors' Compensation Scheme. I filled in the forms to make a claim from the ICS and had to wait for more than a year to hear anything.

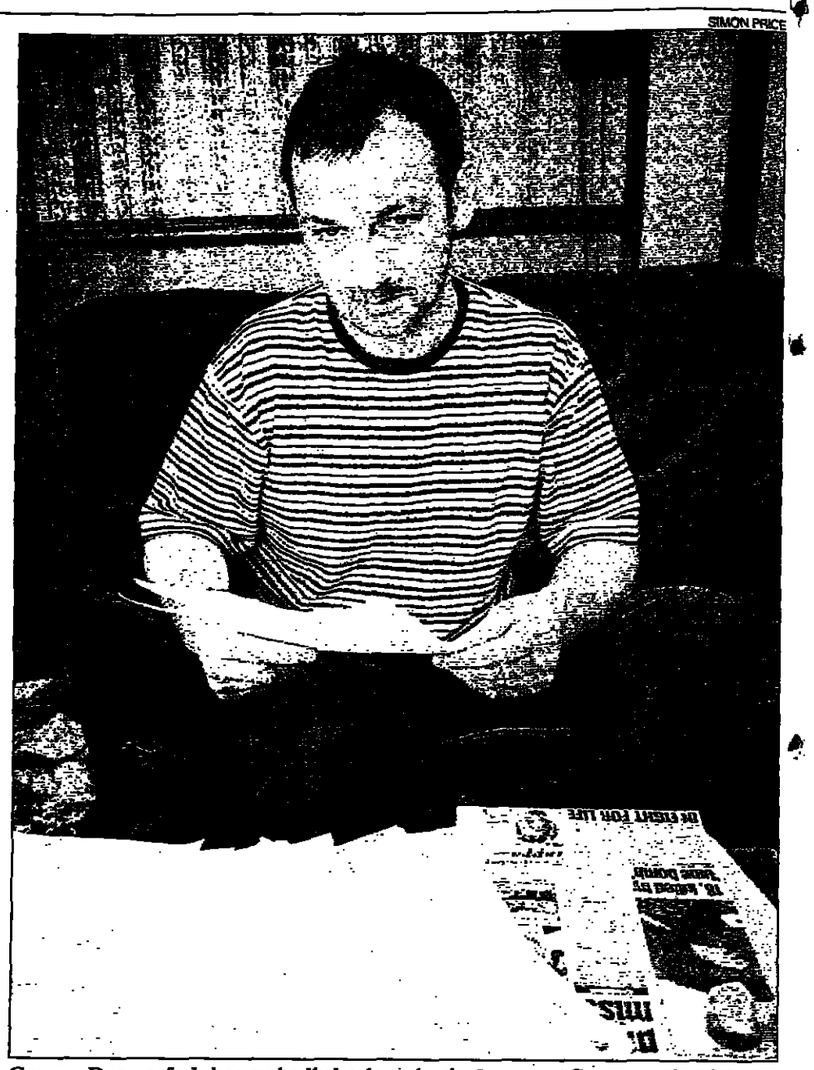
"The answer I got back was that National Savings Bonds were not covered by the ICS. The money was never put into National Savings Bonds but was pocketed by the director of Caledonian Investments."

The regulating authorities were called in to investigate Caledonian more than three years ago, after being contacted by an investor who was concerned over the whereabouts of his money. At one time Caledonian sold products that were branded under the name of Celtic Football Club. The link was abandoned by the club before the investigation.

Paul Goodwin, a director of Caledonian Investments, was eventually convicted and imprisoned.

A spokesman for the ICS said that it only covered investments that came under the Financial Services Act, such as life insurance policies, personal pensions, unit trusts and investment trusts.

SIMON PRICE



Graeme Duncan feels he was badly let down by the Investors' Compensation Scheme

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£100,000+	8.25%

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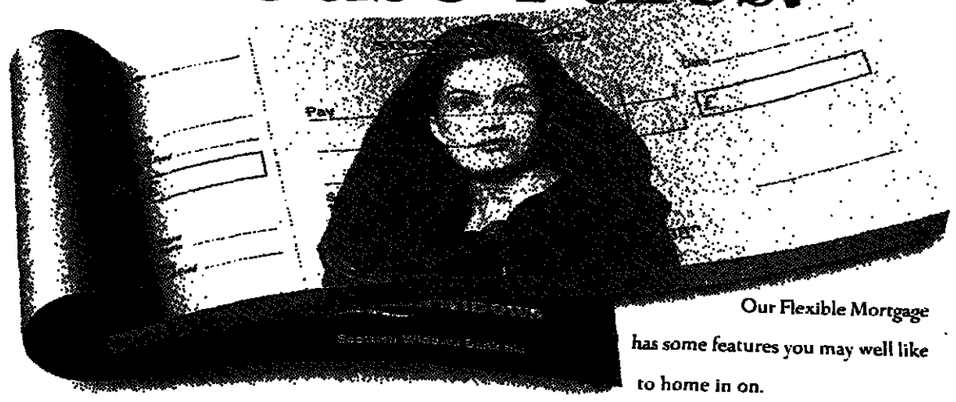
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Interest will be payable net of the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) or, subject to the required certification, gross. Gross means without deduction of tax. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower or basic tax bands, the tax deducted will match their liability to tax on the interest and they will have no more tax to pay on it. Individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. Interest will be calculated daily from the day of receipt in the case of a deposit of cash and from the fourth bank working day after receipt in the case of a deposit by cheque. Minimum deposit £500. Proof of identity may be required. *During the term, from and including the date the account is opened, two instant, penalty-free withdrawals up to a maximum of £10,000 for balances below £25,000, or up to £50,000 for balances of £25,000 and over, may be made. No further withdrawals are permitted during the term. All withdrawals subject to normal branch daily limits of £500 in cash and £100,000 by cheque. Rates of interest may vary from time to time. After two years, the account will mature into an instant access account paying a variable rate of interest allowing you to withdraw money without notice or penalty. Full terms and conditions available on request from any Woolwich branch. Registered Office: Woolwich plc, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RR. Registered in England no 3235999. PP2

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investor protection while highlighting some failings of the old system of regulation

pull together

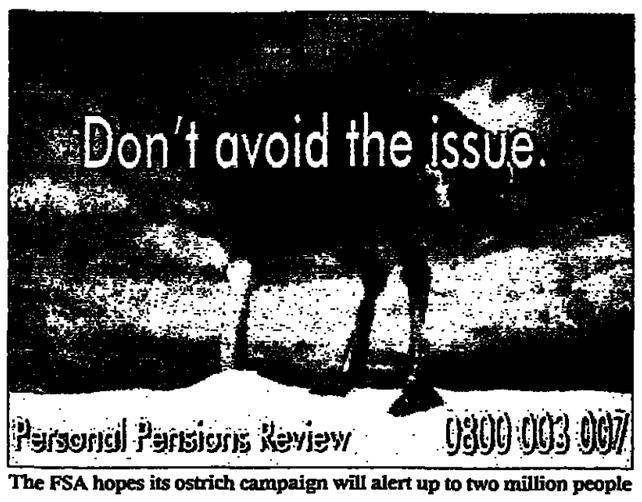
PIA Ombudsman, said: "We handle around between 7,000 and 8,000 complaints a year. About half the complaints that we investigate go in favour of the complainant."

Under the scope of the FSA, all the ombudsman schemes are to be merged. The idea is that investors have one place to complain, and the procedures are simplified. Exactly how is still a matter of debate. One suggestion is that there is one overruling ombudsman, with several ombudsmen reporting to him or her — each with specific responsibilities.

One of the failings of the ombudsman schemes is that they are voluntary. Those who experience problems with a company not within the scheme will not be covered by the scheme rules.

The haven of last resort for investors who have lost money through financial advisers is the Investors' Compensation Scheme (ICS). The ICS pays out to investors that have lost out through fraud or if their adviser has been declared in default by the ICS. The maximum that can be paid out per claim is £50,000; the ICS is paid for through a levy of financial advisers and insurance companies.

The following numbers could be useful. Insurance Ombudsman, 0845 6006666; Investment Ombudsman, 0171-796 3065; Pensions Ombudsman, 0171-834 9144; Banking Ombudsman, 0171-404 9944; Building Societies Ombudsman, 0171-931 0044; PIA Ombudsman, 0171-293 7666; Investors' Compensation Scheme, 0171-628 8820.



The FSA hopes its ostrich campaign will alert up to two million people

Shame of missing compensation

As the Financial Services Authority, the City watchdog, begins the task of overhauling Britain's imperfect system of investor protection, victims of the failings of the existing rules appear condemned to a thankless struggle for restitution for their mistreatment.

No one knows more about the failings of the compensation system than John Budgen. The 84-year-old former managing director of a building company is one of 120 elderly people left with huge debts after their financial adviser, a former call-girl, went bankrupt seven years ago.

Other victims have already died, some having committed suicide in despair at the scale of their debts.

Although their plight screams out for natural justice, the group of victims has been stymied by a combination of bureaucratic inflexibility and legal complexity.

In 1988 the elderly investors took out home income plans (Hips) with Sandy Park Financial Services, a financial adviser based in Plymouth.

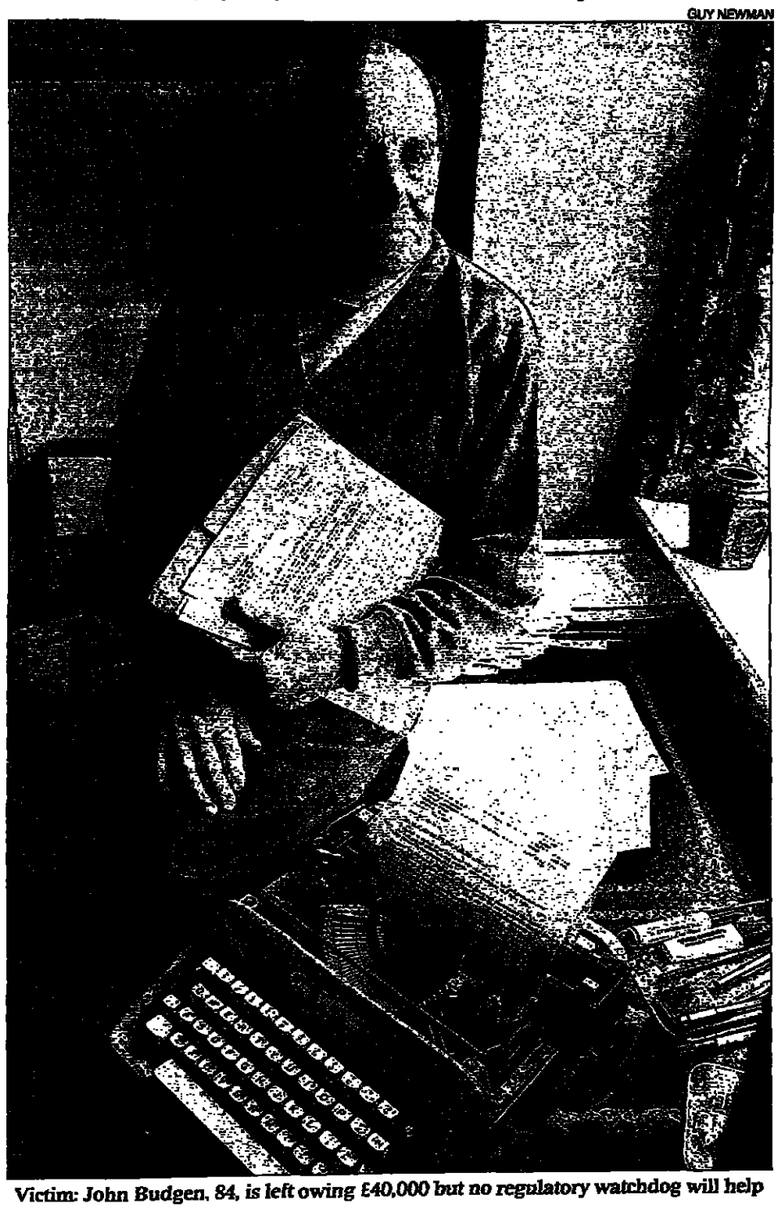
Hips were all the rage in the late Eighties. Thousands of retired people were advised to take out mortgages on their homes and to invest in high-risk bonds to provide income in their twilight years. Many of these plans went disastrously wrong as property prices collapsed, interest rates soared and the value of bonds rapidly decreased.

However, the Sandy Park investors were in even greater peril. The head of the firm was Sonja Thompson, who had been sacked from insurer Allied Dunbar in 1985 after it was discovered she had been running a massage parlour in Bournemouth. She had been a call-girl also, for Cynthia Payne, the celebrated Streatham "madame", in the Seventies.

Over the next three years Sonja Thompson chopped and changed her arrangements with lenders and insurers so much so that charges, fees and commission payments to herself ate up what remained of the investors' money.

In 1990 DBS, the country's largest network of financial advisers, made Sandy Park one of its appointed representatives. The following year Sandy Park was bankrupt, owing investors £4 million.

GUY NEWMAN



Victim: John Budgen, 84, is left owing £40,000 but no regulatory watchdog will help

Plymouth fraud squad charged Sonja Thompson, alleging that she had stolen investors' money and fraudulently inflated their incomes on mortgage applications. She was convicted on five counts of theft but the mortgage fraud charges were dismissed.

She was sentenced to just 180 hours of community service, and subsequently became a wildlife photographer and hospital radiologist.

Meanwhile, attempts by the investors to seek redress from DBS were already going wrong. Trethowans, the group's solicitor in Salisbury, discovered that DBS was not fully insured and was unable to provide complete compensation. After lengthy negotiations, Trethowans recommended a complex offer from DBS, even though accepting it prevented the investors going on to the Investors' Compensation Scheme or the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) Ombudsman who could award far higher figures. The deal, however, protected them from having their homes repossessed.

Under the settlement, DBS gave investors a lump sum and promised to pay a proportion of the interest on their loans for ten years. This agreement expires in three years' time, leaving the pensioners with the frightening prospect of an ever-escalating debt.

Mr Budgen appealed to the Legal Services Ombudsman after a Law Society watchdog turned down his complaints about Trethowans' role. The firm declined to comment and said that the solicitor concerned was no longer with the firm.

Mr Budgen is continuing also to try to persuade the Ombudsman attached to the PIA to take up the case. However, the body refuses to act, arguing that the settlement with DBS is binding and puts the case outside its remit. The Investors' Compensation Scheme is also hampered by the settlement, even though it is currently suing the West Bromwich Building Society in a test case to recoup the cost of £46 million of compensation which it has paid to 3,000 Hip investors.

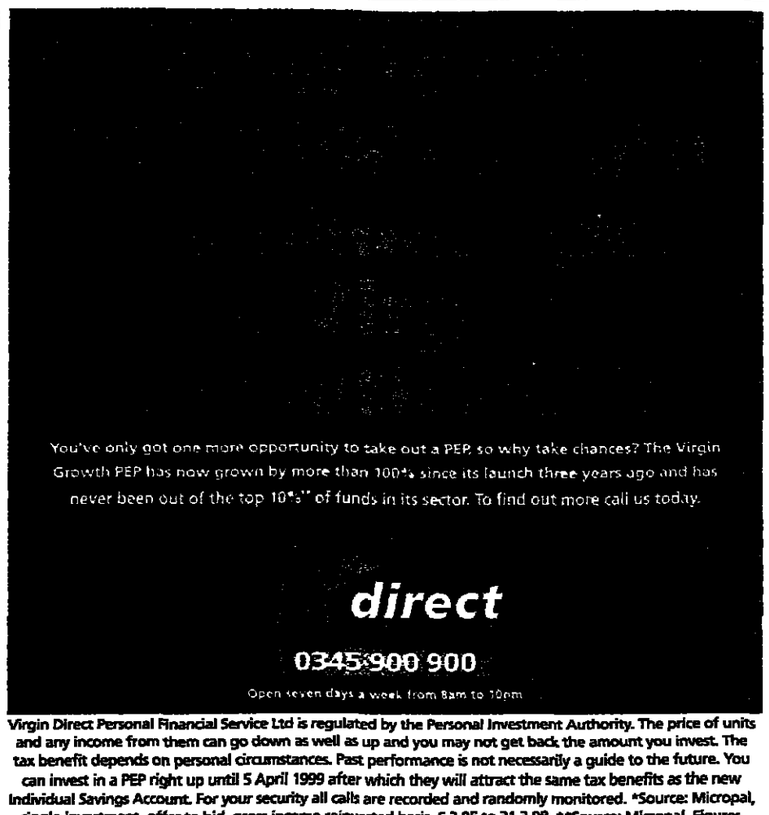
The proposed single ombudsman for the Financial Services Authority is unlikely to improve the situation.

Mr Budgen said: "DBS has given us only a fraction of what we need. I still owe £40,000. Meanwhile, the people I represent are living in misery. Some have died and others have committed suicide because of their despair. Everyone involved this case has got away scot-free while we continue to suffer."

Ken Davy, the chairman of DBS, who was forced to resign from the PIA last year after the firm was fined £425,000 for delays in compensating mis-selling victims, denied that DBS should do more for the investors.

"Sonja Thompson came to us from a reputable insurance company. We obtained satisfactory references, including accountants and solicitors, and were extremely disappointed when we discovered the ultimate situation. Under no circumstances do we employ anyone that is not fit and proper. However, from time to time all employers have the wool pulled over their eyes.

"We have honoured every aspect of the agreement, on which all the investors were properly advised, and have paid out several million pounds — at the time the deal compared very favourably with the compensation other home income plan investors received."



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■ Just 20p per day will pay for veterinary services and the cost of treatment for injury and illness under Nationwide Building Society's new pet insurance policy. Nationwide hopes to attract Britain's 13 million dog and cat owners. Its pet plan differs from some other policies by offering life-long protection. Should a pet need treatment for the same condition more than once in its life, its owner can claim up to the maximum benefit level each year. This could continue every year for the life of the animal, as long as premiums continue to be paid. There is no claim limit for each condition.

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■ Tandy, the computer and electrical store, has teamed up with Yorkshire Electricity to offer customers the opportunity to change gas supplier. From today, Tandy staff in its 269 shops across the UK will be able to answer questions about switching gas provider, and calculate the savings that can be achieved. Gas can be signed up for on the spot. Telephone services will also be offered. Customers can buy SmartCall and UKCall services from Cable & Wireless from their local Tandy store.

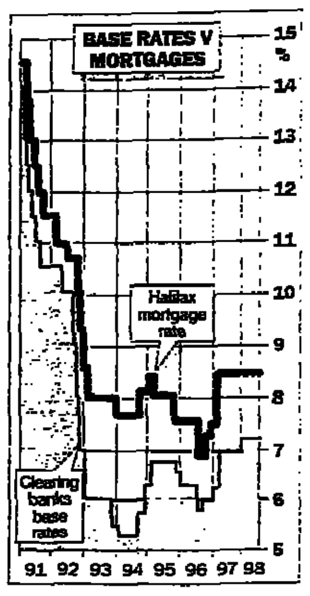
LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Standard Life Bank 0345 555657	Direct Access	InstantT	£1	6.96	Yly
Scottish Widows Bank 0845 8450829	Instant Access	InstantB	£100	7.00	Yly
Safeway 0800 995995	Direct Savings	InstantB	£1,000	7.30	Yly
Northern Rock 0845 600 6767	Save Direct Inst	InstantB	£5,000	7.80	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 30	30 day	£1,000	7.60	Yly
Stroud & Swindon BS 0345 252423	Direct Thirty	30 day B	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct 4	60 day B	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Base Plus	1 year	£2,001	8.00	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Norwich & Peterborough 01733 372222		5 year	£100	8.00	Yly
Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 592588		5 year	£500	8.00	Yly
Darlington BS 01325 366366		5 year	£1,000	8.00	Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£1,000	8.00	Yly



CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.57%N	6.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.69%NC	8.60%N	Nil

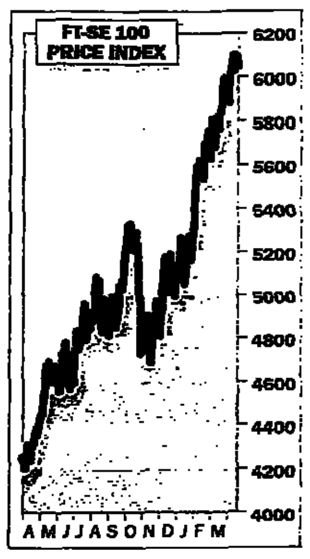
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock 0345 421421	9.90%H	£183.13	£166.11
Yorkshire Bank 0800 202122	12.50%	£190.33	£165.77
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate, H = If insurance not arranged APR 12.7 per cent, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = Operated by Post, T = Operated by Telephone.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)



NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.60	1.20	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*s	4.75	3.80	2.85	1-499**†	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* d	7.00	5.60	4.20	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond d	6.50	5.20	3.90	1K-250,000**		0645 645000
46th Issue Certs a s	4.80			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.00			25-1,000	8day	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond e	6.00	4.80	3.60	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
13th Ind Linked† s	2.25			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S5 e	6.10	4.88	3.66	500-50,000 b	60day	0645 645000

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. Inst acces for up to £100 ² Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds ³ Tax free *Rates gross and vble a Guaranteed when held for 5 years b 0.2% net bonus for £20,000 + £100,000 jt in addition to S1, S2, S3 and S4 holdings d Taxable but cred in full e £500-100,000 earn higher rates **Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann) Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Sun Life ....Level	£ 8,640	£ 9,772	£11,298
Canada Life ....Level	£ 8,515	£ 9,692	£11,388
Commercial Un....Level	£ 8,322	£ 9,632	£11,382
Standard Life ....Level	£ 8,516	£ 9,620	£11,048
Legal & General...Level	£ 8,520	£ 9,563	£10,879

SINGLE LIFE Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Norwich Union.....Level	£7,791	£ 8,649	£ 9,863
Sun Life ....Level	£7,810	£ 8,631	£ 9,812
Canada Life ....Level	£7,790	£ 8,630	£ 9,843
Equitable Life........Level	£7,810	£ 8,552	£ 9,622
Generali ....Level	£7,553	£ 8,497	£ 9,790

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55	Male: Age 65 / Female: Age 60	Male: Age 70 / Female: Age 65
Sun Life ....Level	£7,405	£8,056	£ 8,962
Equitable Life.......Level	£7,435	£8,021	£ 8,842
Norwich Union.....Level	£7,360	£7,923	£ 8,663
Prudential ....Level	£7,382	£7,905	£ 8,674
Generali ....Level	£7,163	£7,837	£ 8,753

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at April 9, 1998

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.70
	5,000	AIG Life	6.22
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.50
	40,000	AIG Life	6.53
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.35
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.95
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.10
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.32
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.45
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.05
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.30
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.90
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.15
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.80

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-493 7900. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	134.00	7.00	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	161.25	7.21	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	178.25	7.29	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	183.25	7.09	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	174.75	6.94	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	164.00	7.16	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	192.75	6.94	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	157.75	6.81	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	184.00	6.86	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	190.50	6.76	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	166.75	7.05	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	120.50	7.26	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	157.25	7.63	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	193.50	7.04	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	184.75	7.24	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	175.50	7.19	100.14	1,000

PIBS=Permanent interest-bearing shares. *Source.* Greenwich NatWest



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Scotland 0645 812812	0.00	any	95	0% for 2 mths, 2% disc 10 mths
Bank of Ireland 01189 684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths More dscs, £280 fee
Northern Rock¹ 0845 6050500	3.89	to £250k	95	Fixed to 1.9.00 £395 fee
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	4.90	£20-300k	75	Fixed to 1.5.00 0.5% fee, £300 max
Halifax 01422 333333	4.95	no max	90	Fixed to 31.8.00 £295 fee

NB. ¹ compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Scotland 0645 812 812	0.00	any	95	0% dsc-2 mths, 2% dsc-10 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.05	to £150k	95	Fixed for 1 yr 0.75% loan fee
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.10	£1-150k	80	8.54% dsc-1 yr £250 fee
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.50	£25-175k	95	8% disc-6 mths, more dscs apply
Bank of Ireland 0118 9684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fix 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.49	no max	95	Fix to 1.4.99 £295 fee
Wesleyan 0121 2003003	5.35	to £100k	95	3.25% disc 12mths
Halifax 01422 333333	5.65	any	95	Fix to 31.8.00, £195 fee
Alliance & Leic¹ 0345 108108	5.85	£20-300k	95	Fixed to 1.5.00 £150 fee

NB. ¹Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd (01753 880482).

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	622.30	658.60	- 8.20	...
UK Equity	891.20	943.10	-14.30	...
Property	479.80	507.80	- 3.50	...
Fixed Interest	374.30	396.10	- 1.60	...
Money	286.40	303.10	+ 0.30	...
International	505.50	535.00	- 6.70	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	231.00	243.20	- 0.80	...
Ethical S4	203.30	214.00	- 0.50	...
International S4	241.40	254.20	- 1.50	...
Protected Gth S4	135.40	142.60	+ 0.30	...
Asian Pacific	155.10	163.30	- 4.10	...
European S4	315.20	331.80	+ 0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	462.70	487.10	+ 0.30	...
Equity Ser 4	351.70	370.30	- 4.80	...
Man Ser 4	941.30	990.90	- 7.10	...
Conv Ser 4	376.00	395.80	+ 0.40	...
Money Ser 4	375.60	395.40	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	465.10	489.60	- 0.40	...
American Ser 4	917.30	965.60	- 7.30	...
High Inc Ser 4	1097.30	1155.10	-14.90	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	268.40	282.60	- 0.20	...
Japan Ser 4	229.90	242.00	- 5.90	...
Formerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd				
Security Fund	893.60	945.70	-15.00	...
British Fund	970.60	1027.10	-18.90	...
International	792.90	839.10	-10.80	...
Dollar Fund	750.10	793.80	- 4.70	...
Capital Fund	753.30	797.20	-12.20	...
Income Fund	1203.80	1273.90	-18.30	...
Property Series A	589.10	623.40	+ 1.00	4.70
Property Units	985.90	1035.20	+ 2.10	...
Financial Fund	1214.90	1289.40	-13.70	...
Managed Ser A	822.20	870.10	-10.80	...
Managed Units	1489.70	1568.30	-19.20	...
High Yield Fund	1080.20	1143.10	-15.50	...
Money Series A	332.30	351.70	+ 0.30	...
Money Units	446.10	469.60	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	960.40	1016.30	-14.90	...
Fixed Interest	496.20	525.10	- 0.50	...
Indexed Secs	231.60	245.10	- 0.30	...
European Fund	1294.40	1369.80	- 6.90	...
Natural Res	262.10	277.40	- 2.50	...
Far East Fund	462.00	488.90	- 5.30	...
Smaller Cos	772.80	817.80	- 2.10	...
Special Sits	859.90	910.00	- 9.20	...
Man Currency	297.10	314.40	+ 0.40	...
Japanese Tech	229.50	242.90	+ 1.90	...
US Smaller Cos	560.30	593.00	- 1.70	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	283.10	298.00	- 0.30	...
Financial Ser I	100.40	105.70	- 1.10	...
Fixed Interest	419.00	441.10	- 0.20	...
Gold	67.10	70.70	- 2.10	...
Managed	900.40	947.80	-11.30	...
Mngd Growth	289.90	305.30	- 4.10	...
Property	399.50	420.60	...	...
Residential Prop	126.00	132.70	...	...
TSB American	427.50	450.00	- 2.60	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1489.40	1567.80	-30.70	...
TSB European	475.10	500.20	- 2.50	...
TSB Income	693.70	730.30	-12.00	...
TSB Intl	599.70	631.30	- 7.60	...
TSB Pacific	320.80	337.70	- 5.50	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	429.40	452.00	+ 0.60	...
Equity Acc	2174.80	2289.30	-31.30	...
Property Acc	782.80	824.00	+ 1.70	...
Far East Acc	244.10	257.00	- 8.10	...
Managed Capital	739.50	778.50	- 8.10	...
-do- Acc	1626.80	1712.50	-17.20	...
Overseas Acc	1413.60	1488.00	-20.30	...
Gilt Edged Acc	660.60	695.40	- 1.50	...
Amer Equity Acc	1506.10	1585.40	- 5.30	...
Amer Man Acc	622.30	655.10	- 2.70	...
Amer Prop Acc	129.70	136.60	- 2.00	...
Distribution Bonds	29.40	31.00	- 0.20	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	194.00	204.30	...	...
Balced Ser 6	1078.10	1134.80	-12.30	...
Opportunity Ser 6	255.10	268.60	- 3.10	...
Distribution Ser 6	119.20	125.50	- 0.70	5.86
UK Equities Ser 6	1700.00	1789.50	-24.80	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1826.40	1922.60	-22.10	...
North Amer Ser 6	745.60	784.90	- 8.20	...
Far East Ser 6	438.40	462.10	-12.10	...
Europe Ser 6	702.70	739.70	- 1.90	...
Intnl Ser 6	783.40	824.70	- 7.70	...
Property Ser 6	642.40	676.30	+ 1.00	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	565.10	594.90	- 0.30	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec Se 6	230.20	242.40	- 0.10	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	342.50	360.30	+ 0.40	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1466.30	1543.50	-21.00	...
-do- Initial	861.70	907.10	-14.10	...
Gilt Edged Acc	521.90	549.40	...	...
-do- Initial	309.40	325.70	...	...
International Acc	516.10	543.40	- 5.60	...
-do- Initial	305.20	321.30	- 3.30	...
Managed Acc	789.70	831.30	- 9.40	...
-do- Initial	466.80	491.40	- 5.60	...
Money Acc	333.60	351.20	+ 0.40	...
Property Acc	354.20	372.80	+ 0.50	...
-do- Initial	212.10	223.30	+ 0.10	...
America Acc	537.40	565.70	- 3.20	...
Far East Gwth	160.70	169.20	- 4.50	...
Financial Acc	674.70	710.30	-12.10	...
500 Accum	624.40	657.30	- 0.40	...
Japan Acc	173.20	182.40	- 0.80	...
Income Acc	852.80	897.70	-11.70	...
Special Sits Acc	455.70	479.70	- 6.50	...
Univ Tech Acc	221.10	232.80	- 3.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1202.77	1202.77	- 5.67	...
Income Fund	1245.25	1310.79	- 8.89	...
Euro Income	1126.84	1186.15	- 3.35	...
Worldwide Gth	691.49	727.89	- 0.76	...
Balanced Fund	1097.14	1154.89	- 5.94	...
Smllr Cos Recov	1210.70	1274.43	- 1.99	...
N Amer & Genrl	639.25	672.90	- 2.52	...
Pacific Basin	287.56	302.70	- 0.48	...
German Growth	384.60	404.85	+ 2.07	...
Japan Growth	125.64	132.26	+ 1.17	...
The UK Gth Fd	355.83	374.56	- 1.90	...
Contl Euro Gth	230.41	242.54	+ 1.28	...
Property Fund	463.57	487.97	+ 2.95	...
Fixed Interest	436.28	459.25	- 0.38	...
Cash Fund	323.83	340.88	+ 0.36	...
Managed Inv	710.21	747.59	- 3.60	...
Nth Amer Recov	401.14	422.26	+ 5.75	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	250.40	266.00	- 1.80	...
Performance Plus	295.10	312.30	+ 2.00	...
With Profit Perf	203.60	215.40	+ 0.20	...
UK Opportunity	346.20	366.20	- 4.20	...
Euro Opportunity	385.70	408.00	+ 4.60	...
North Amer Opp	323.30	342.10	- 0.70	...
Far East Opp	172.70	182.80	- 2.60	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	187.40	197.20	+ 0.70	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	248.10	262.50	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Int	269.10	284.70	+ 0.20	...
Cash	181.30	191.80	+ 0.20	6.49
Overseas	340.10	359.90	+ 2.30	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	524.60	552.30	- 3.60	...
UK Equity	1047.10	1102.30	-12.60	...
Property	342.40	360.50	+ 0.20	...
Money Market	287.30	302.50	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	390.90	411.50	+ 0.30	...
Japan	250.20	263.40	- 3.10	...
North America	287.70	302.90	- 0.30	...
International	525.60	553.30	+ 3.50	...
European	493.20	519.20	+ 5.90	...
Far East	127.90	134.70	- 1.90	...
CANADA LIFE 26 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	492.90	518.90	- 0.90	...
Property	318.30	335.10	+ 0.30	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	309.80	326.20	- 0.20	...
Equity	635.10	668.60	- 1.80	...
Cash	245.00	257.90	+ 0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	617.00	649.50	- 3.40	...
CLife Intl Fd	438.80	430.40	- 0.20	...
Managed Fund	1052.30	1107.70	- 2.00	...
Property Fund	638.20	671.80	+ 1.80	...
Equity Fund	1567.30	1649.80	- 4.50	...
Gilt Edged Fd	799.30	841.40	- 0.60	...
Deposit Fund	378.00	397.90	+ 0.30	...
Investment Fd	706.30	741.60	- 1.20	...
International	680.70	684.90	- 0.40	...
Formerly Albany Life				
UK Equity	2434.70	2562.80	-26.10	...
Merc European	681.70	717.50	- 0.80	...
Merc Fxd Int	657.60	692.10	...	...
Gtd Money	382.10	402.20	+ 0.40	...
Mercury Intl Mgd	911.30	959.20	+ 1.10	...
Merc Intl Fxd Int	385.10	405.30	- 1.60	...
Mercury Japan	193.80	203.90	- 5.20	...
Merc Nth Amer	565.20	594.90	- 0.70	...
UK Property	528.30	556.10	+ 0.70	...
Merc Multip Inv	1462.00	1538.90	-11.20	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	214.50	225.80	...	...
Managed Fund	963.20	1013.90	- 6.70	...
Equity Fund	625.00	655.80	- 3.70	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	428.20	450.80	- 4.00	...
Ruby	229.20	241.30	- 1.50	...
Emerald	180.60	190.20	- 0.10	...
Equity	547.40	576.30	- 7.60	...
Property	263.30	277.20	+ 0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	271.30	285.60	- 0.10	...
Indexed Secs	213.50	224.80	- 0.30	...
Cash	214.00	225.30	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	429.90	452.60	+ 2.50	...
Far East	229.60	241.70	+ 0.80	...
International	319.00	335.80	- 1.50	...
Special Sits	583.50	614.30	- 1.10	...
Intl Income	514.30	541.40	- 6.80	...
European	611.70	643.90	- 1.10	...
Japanese	91.50	96.40	- 0.60	...
SE Asia	308.30	324.60	- 8.70	...
With Profits Reg	202.40	213.10	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	202.40	213.10	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	513.00	540.10	- 7.20	...
Equity	705.00	742.20	-15.10	...
Property	251.20	264.50	+ 0.60	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	362.10	381.20	...	...
Index Linked	232.40	244.70	- 0.40	...
Cash	299.10	314.90	+ 1.40	...
Nth American	544.40	573.10	+ 1.40	...
Far East Acc	235.20	247.60	- 3.70	...
International Acc	401.90	423.00	- 1.30	...
Special Sits	892.20	939.20	- 1.80	...
European Flex	915.40	963.60	+ 3.20	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units) Key I	247.54	...		
-do- Pens(rfaker) I	471.44	...		
-do- Cash	229.66	241.75	+ 0.20	...
-do- Equity	881.04	928.36	+ 4.61	...
-do- Fxd Int	464.93	489.40	- 0.06	...
-do- Managed	606.14	638.57	- 5.60	...
-do- Property	473.20	498.11	- 0.28	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	221.64	233.36	+ 0.14	...
-do- Cash Inv	365.16	384.38	+ 0.52	...
-do- Equity Cap	2247.47	2365.77	-29.89	...
-do- Equity Inv	3701.98	3896.83	-46.21	...
-do- Fixed Cap	500.50	526.85	- 1.16	...
-do- Fixed Inv	824.41	867.81	- 1.24	...
-do- Index Cap	240.40	253.06	- 0.37	...
-do- Index Inv	395.98	416.83	- 0.29	...
-do- Mngd Cap	872.31	918.23	-11.02	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1436.85	1512.49	-16.97	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)‡	1369.58	...	+ 3.62	...
Var Ann (5)‡	144.88	...	- 0.01	...
Prime Managed	598.10	629.60	- 7.00	...
Prime UK Equity	832.00	875.80	-13.80	...
Prime Int Equity	377.80	397.70	- 2.50	...
Prime Property	285.70	300.80	+ 0.40	...
Prime Fxd Int	293.90	309.40	- 0.10	...
Prime Index-Lnk	212.70	223.90	- 0.30	...
Prime Cash	236.10	247.50	+ 0.30	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1613.10	1698.00	...	...
Equity (‡	2602.30	2739.20	...	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut Wth Pfts (586)‡	121.70	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (3)‡	114.60	...	+ 0.20	...
Managed (3)‡	143.10	...	- 1.00	...
Equity Mngd (3)‡	144.00	...	- 1.20	...
Adventurous (3)‡	130.40	...	- 1.20	...
Bristol & West (2)‡	116.90	...	+ 0.20	...
Equity Mgd S1	348.30	366.70	- 3.30	...
Managed S1	343.80	361.90	- 2.70	...
Adventurous S1	267.50	281.60	- 2.70	...
Managed (2)	233.90	246.30	- 1.90	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	463.30	490.20	- 4.20	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5)‡	123.00	...	+ 0.30	...
Secure (2)‡	116.20	...	+ 0.20	...
Managed (2)‡	146.20	...	- 1.30	...
Equity Mngd (2)‡	149.80	...	- 1.50	...
Adventurous (2)‡	132.30	...	- 1.50	...
Bristol & West (2)‡	118.90	...	+ 0.20	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	468.50	493.20	- 3.90	...
UK Equity	685.50	721.60	- 9.50	...
Stewardship	546.60	575.40	- 0.90	...
Overseas Equity	419.10	441.20	- 2.80	...
North American	264.60	278.60	- 2.10	...
Pacific Basin	117.80	124.10	- 2.20	...
European	455.90	479.90	+ 0.80	...
Property	215.30	226.70	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	312.90	329.40	- 0.20	...
Index Linked	212.70	223.90	- 0.10	...
Cash	231.70	243.90	+ 0.30	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	689.90	726.20	- 0.50	...
Managed	1065.60	1121.60	-11.40	...
Deposit	396.70	417.50	+ 0.50	...
Property	599.10	630.60	+ 0.80	...
American	748.40	787.70	- 7.20	...
Australian	687.60	723.70	+ 4.20	...
European	1139.80	1199.70	+ 1.00	...
Income Acc	1249.30	1315.00	-13.30	...
-do- Dist	676.70	712.30	- 7.40	3.97
International	450.60	474.30	- 3.40	...
Japan Smaller	251.20	264.40	+ 1.90	...
Singapore & Mal	269.70	283.80	-13.30	...
Tokyo Fund	516.80	544.00	- 5.40	...
UK Equity	961.60	1012.20	-12.50	...
CCM Vangd Mg	1135.90	1195.60	-12.00	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	231.80	244.00	- 8.30	...
GT Plan Wwide	623.60	656.50	- 4.20	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	912.30	912.30	- 9.90	...
-do- Inv A	912.30	960.40	-10.40	...
UK Equity	643.80	677.80	- 8.30	...
Gilt Plus	253.20	266.60	- 0.20	...
Managed	418.00	440.10	- 4.70	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	309.00	325.20	- 4.00	...
Unitised Profit	173.30	182.40	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	489.00	514.70	- 7.60	...
Fixed Int	248.50	261.50	- 0.10	...
Index-Linked	205.70	216.40	- 0.30	...
Cash Deposit	198.90	209.30	+ 0.30	...
Property	211.50	222.50	+ 0.30	...
International	239.50	252.00	- 0.80	...
American	302.70	318.50	- 0.60	...
Japan	165.20	173.90	- 5.50	...
Japan Smllr Cos	169.10	177.90	- 5.70	...
European	309.80	326.00	- 3.60	...
Pacific Fund	195.70	205.90	- 4.30	...
Conv Life	202.60	211.00	- 0.10	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	706.30	743.50	- 4.00	...
Managed Initial	426.90	449.40	- 5.80	...
Equity Ord	1237.10	1302.20	-19.50	...
Equity Init	747.70	787.10	-12.30	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	250.90	264.10	- 1.30	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	158.40	166.70	- 0.40	...
Oseas Equity Ord	480.80	506.10	- 5.80	...
Oseas Equity Init	290.60	305.90	- 3.70	...
Property Ord	328.80	346.10	+ 1.40	...
Property Init	198.70	209.20	...	...
Fixed Int Ord	363.60	382.70	- 0.10	...
Fixed Int Init	219.80	231.40	- 0.20	...
Deposit Ord	237.40	249.90	+ 0.30	...
Deposit Initial	143.50	151.10	+ 0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	993.80	1035.20	...	...
Managed Initial	649.10	683.30	- 6.20	...
-do- Acc	994.60	1046.90	- 9.50	...
Equity Initial	1104.30	1162.40	-13.50	...
-do- Acc	1692.10	1781.10	-20.70	...
Fixed Int Initial	539.00	567.30	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc	825.80	869.30	- 0.20	...
Intl Initial	558.00	587.30	- 4.40	...
-do- Acc	854.90	899.90	- 6.80	...
Nth Amer Initial	325.40	342.50	- 1.00	...
-do- Acc	453.70	477.60	- 1.40	...
Pacific Initial	145.20	152.80	- 3.10	...
-do- Acc	200.50	211.10	- 4.20	...
Property Initial	204.90	215.70	...	...
-do- Acc	313.90	330.40	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	189.30	199.30	- 0.20	...
-do- Acc	264.00	277.90	- 0.20	...
Deposit Initial	212.20	223.40	+ 0.30	...
-do- Acc	325.10	342.20	+ 0.30	...
Euro Initial	171.70	180.70	- 1.00	...
-do- Acc	221.30	232.90	- 1.20	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	38.14	40.15	- 0.29	...
Balanced	38.02	40.02	- 0.41	...
Opportunity	39.16	41.22	- 0.37	...
Deposit	27.13	28.56	+ 0.03	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	30.34	31.94	- 0.25	...
Balanced S2	30.55	32.16	- 0.42	...
Opportunity S2	30.35	31.84	- 0.25	...
Deposit S2	25.65	27.00	+ 0.04	...
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840080				
Managed	252.70	266.00	- 0.40	...
-do- Pens	336.90	354.60	- 0.70	...
UK Equity	299.60	315.30	- 0.30	...
-do- Pens	383.20	403.30	- 0.60	...
International	194.30	204.50	+ 0.50	...
-do- Pens	220.00	231.50	+ 0.60	...
Deposit	159.70	168.10	+ 0.20	...
-do- Pens	197.20	207.50	+ 0.30	...
For Hill Samuel see Abbey Life Assurance				
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	868.80	914.50	+ 5.70	...
Global Property	359.30	378.20	...	...
Global Fixed Int	676.30	711.90	+ 0.60	...
Global Equity	962.50	1013.20	+ 7.30	...
Global Cash	245.10	258.00	+ 0.20	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	205.50	216.40	- 0.20	...
Brit Opps Int	225.00	236.90	- 2.30	...
-do- Acc	308.70	325.00	- 3.20	...
Cash Initial	174.00	183.20	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	331.10	348.60	+ 0.40	...
Equity Initial	1048.50	1103.70	-16.30	...
-do- Acc	1995.00	2100.00	-31.20	...
Fixed Initial	410.30	431.90	...	...
-do- Acc	780.70	821.80	- 0.10	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	156.20	164.90	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc	253.50	266.90	- 0.20	...
Intl Initial	375.40	395.20	- 4.00	...
-do- Acc	703.30	740.40	- 7.40	...
Managed Initial	647.70	681.80	- 7.60	...
-do- Acc	1232.50	1297.40	-14.30	...
Property Initial	242.50	255.30	+ 0.30	...
-do- Acc	461.50	485.80	+ 0.60	...
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	£223.12	...	-294.00	...
Property Units	3360.00	3537.00	...	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	9576.00	£100.80	-106.00	...
2nd Equity Acc	1049.00	1104.00	-15.00	...
2nd High Inc Ac	1001.10	1053.00	-12.00	...
2nd Property Acc	300.80	316.60	...	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	224.60	236.30	- 1.00	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	663.10	697.90	- 7.30	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	301.30	317.00	- 3.60	...
2nd Deposit Acc	324.50	341.50	+ 0.40	...
2nd Gilt Acc	390.80	411.30	+ 0.30	...
2nd Amer Acc	1131.00	1191.00	- 4.00	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	246.10	259.00	- 1.50	...
2nd Index Acc	255.00	268.40	- 0.10	...
2nd Far East Acc	251.80	265.00	- 9.50	...
2nd Global Acc	201.80	212.30	- 2.60	...
2nd Euro Acc	271.30	285.40	- 3.20	...
2nd Japan Acc	108.40	114.00	- 2.20	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	175.60	184.70	- 1.10	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	193.40	203.50	- 2.00	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	640.40	674.50	...	...
Managed	596.10	627.30	- 6.60	...
American	673.50	708.90	- 2.80	...
UK Equity Fd	762.20	802.20	-10.60	...
Japan	119.30	125.50	- 2.40	...
Index-Lkd	226.40	240.30	- 0.30	...
High Yield	1391.00	1464.00	-16.00	...
Money	461.00	485.20	+ 0.50	...
International	453.50	477.30	- 5.80	...
Perpetual Active	421.20	433.80	- 4.10	...
Growth Acc	932.00	981.00	-10.30	...
Gilt Edged	553.60	582.70	+ 0.40	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	247.50	260.40	- 2.90	...
Far East	133.20	140.10	- 5.10	...
LONDON LIFE Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL 0117 984 7777				
Equity‡	1485.90	...	-32.20	...
Fixed Interest‡	575.30	...	- 0.30	...
Property‡	512.60	...	- 0.60	...
Deposit‡	341.00	...	+ 0.40	...
Mixed‡	873.20	...	-14.40	...
Indexed Stock‡	282.90	...	- 0.10	...
International‡	352.00	...	- 5.10	...
Equity A‡	343.10	...	- 7.50	...
Fixed Int A‡	254.10	...	- 0.10	...
Property A‡	224.30	...	- 0.30	...
Deposit A‡	199.50	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed A‡	285.60	...	- 4.70	...
Index Stock A‡	220.50	...	- 0.10	...
International A‡	218.90	...	- 3.20	...
Equity P‡	1337.50	...	-33.80	...
Fixed Int P‡	801.00	...	- 0.30	...
Property P‡	393.10	...	- 0.40	...
Deposit P‡	412.90	...	+ 0.60	...
Mixed P‡	850.70	...	-15.90	...
Index Stock P‡	327.30	...	- 0.20	...
International P‡	433.50	...	- 7.40	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap‡	713.70	...	- 2.50	...
-do- Acc‡	1388.60	...	- 3.30	...
Property Cap‡	140.60	...	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc‡	260.50	...	+ 0.10	...
Fxd Interest Cap‡	220.70	...	- 0.20	...
-do- Acc‡	412.40	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Cap‡	474.20	...	- 4.30	...
-do- Acc‡	904.20	...	- 7.20	...
Internatl Cap‡	270.10	...	- 1.80	...
-do- Acc‡	508.30	...	- 2.90	...
Gtd Deposit Cap‡	159.10	...	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc‡	295.20	...	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap‡	450.00	...	- 3.10	...
-do- Acc‡	853.90	...	- 5.00	...
Moneymaker Fd‡	639.70	...	- 3.30	...
Capital Growth‡	2927.40	...	-21.30	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	729.60	766.20	- 0.70	...
Amer Rec Bond	839.40	881.40	+ 9.60	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	346.50	363.90	+ 5.80	...
Australasia Bd	293.70	308.50	+ 2.30	...
Commodity Bond	334.60	351.40	+ 0.90	...
Deposit Bond Acc	413.80	434.60	+ 0.20	...
Equity Bond Acc	2291.70	2406.40	-26.80	...
European Bd Acc	706.70	741.10	- 6.50	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1266.80	1330.20	-22.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc	582.20	611.40	+ 0.30	...
Gold Bond Acc	132.10	138.80	- 1.40	...
High Yield Bond	501.00	526.20	-15.20	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	258.20	271.20	- 0.50	...
International Bd	973.90	1022.70	- 7.30	...
Japan Bond Acc	150.60	158.30	- 3.20	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	165.70	174.10	+ 2.40	...
Managed Bonds	1246.00	1308.40	-12.80	...
Prop Bond Acc	628.80	660.30	+ 1.60	...
Rec Bond Acc	1248.50	1311.00	- 9.80	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	243.70	256.00	- 6.60	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	354.60	373.30	- 6.50	...
UK Equity Acc	562.70	592.40	- 6.00	...
Special Sits	149.20	157.10	- 2.70	...
Special Sits Acc	236.90	249.40	- 2.30	...
North American	292.60	308.00	- 4.70	...
N American Acc	464.40	488.90	- 6.70	...
Pacific Basin	258.80	272.50	- 1.50	...
Pacific Basin Acc	410.80	432.50	- 9.70	...
Fixed Interest	331.50	349.00	- 0.10	...
Fixed Interest Acc	526.70	554.50	- 0.20	...
Property	202.40	213.10	+ 0.10	...
Property Acc	321.60	338.60	+ 0.30	...
Deposit	157.50	165.80	- 0.10	...
Deposit Acc	250.20	263.40	+ 0.30	...
Managed	358.60	377.50	- 5.70	...
Managed Acc	524.30	551.90	- 5.10	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	489.90	515.60	- 0.40	...
UK Equity	612.80	645.00	- 3.60	...
Gilt Edged	814.80	857.60	- 0.30	...
Interest Fund	460.80	485.00	- 0.50	...
Managed Fd	693.50	730.00	- 4.00	...
Intl Equity	780.20	821.20	- 5.10	...
North American	354.60	373.20	- 3.40	...
Far East	355.00	373.60	- 9.00	...
Intl Currency	284.30	299.20	- 0.10	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	711.30	748.70	- 7.90	...
UK Equity	1083.20	1140.20	-15.60	...
Overseas Equity	587.20	618.10	- 5.60	...
Americas	659.30	694.00	- 7.10	...
Far East	425.40	447.70	-15.10	...
Property	249.80	262.90	+ 0.60	...
Fixed Interest	506.70	533.30	- 0.30	...
Indexed Gilt	295.60	311.10	- 0.30	...
Deposit	250.30	263.40	+ 0.30	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	200.00	210.30	- 2.50	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 148, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	2248.00	2366.30	-27.30	...
Equity Fund	5428.80	5714.50	-89.20	...
Property Fd	774.40	815.20	- 0.80	...
Fixed Int Fd	799.90	842.00	- 0.80	...
Deposit Fund	407.00	428.40	- 0.50	...
Intl Fund	349.10	367.50	- 3.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	474.40	500.50	- 8.30	...
Fxd Interest Acc	319.60	337.20	- 0.20	...
International Acc	339.70	358.40	- 5.20	...
Managed Acc	316.40	333.80	- 4.60	...
Property Acc	229.90	242.60	+ 0.20	...
Money Acc	175.80	185.50	+ 0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	263.30	277.80	- 3.10	...
Japan Equity Acc	74.10	78.20	- 2.20	...
N Amer Acc	288.90	304.80	- 4.50	...
Pacific Acc	97.30	102.70	- 3.40	...
European Acc	345.70	364.70	+ 3.20	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	148.30	156.20	+ 0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	383.50	403.70	+ 0.50	...
Inv Equity	2140.40	2253.10	-35.50	...
Inv Managed	1331.90	1402.10	-15.90	...
Ret Managed	1564.30	1646.70	-21.90	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 01189 578334				
Managed	535.00	557.30	+ 1.30	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3228				
Managed Fund	1187.10	1249.60	-13.40	...
Equity Fund	2781.90	2928.40	-38.10	...
Intl Fund	842.00	886.40	- 8.40	...
Fixed Interest	723.90	762.10	+ 0.90	...
Property Fund	559.20	588.70	+ 0.20	...
Cash Fund	418.00	440.00	+ 0.40	...
Pacific Basin	258.10	271.70	- 8.50	...
N American Fd	516.50	543.70	+ 0.40	...
Euro Fund	534.50	562.70	- 4.20	...
Balanced Fund	233.80	246.20	- 2.70	...
Strategic Fund	267.50	281.60	- 2.70	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)‡	1149.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc	603.40	635.20	...	...
Op Prop	573.00	603.20	...	...
Op Equity	1653.00	1740.00	-13.80	...
Op High Yield	781.60	822.70	- 0.40	...
Op Managed	1195.90	1258.80	- 7.80	...
Op Deposit	449.70	473.40	+ 0.80	...
Japan Smlr	115.60	121.70	...	...
Managed Gth	404.40	425.70	...	...
British	605.00	636.80	...	...
Global Bond	122.00	128.40	...	...
Gold Share	62.00	65.30	...	...
Japan	249.90	263.00	...	...
UK Smlr Cos	717.30	755.10	...	...
Mngd Growth	677.90	713.60	...	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	577.40	607.70	- 3.60	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	108.80	115.20	- 0.50	1.85
Deposit Fund (3)	437.60	462.70	+ 0.80	7.18
Gilt Fund	685.70	724.40	+ 1.30	7.20
Global Equity Fd	302.60	320.20	- 1.90	...
Property Fund (46)	139.20	147.40	+ 0.40	6.56
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	988.90	1041.00	- 5.80	...
Fixed Interest	470.70	495.50	- 1.00	...
Index-Linked	244.20	257.10	+ 0.10	...
International	565.80	595.60	- 5.00	...
Property	359.30	378.30	...	...
Cash	260.90	274.70	+ 0.20	...
Managed	667.30	702.50	- 5.00	...
Cap Gteed Bd	206.80	217.60	- 2.20	...
95% Safeguard	115.20	...	- 0.40	...
100% Safeguard	105.40	...	- 0.10	...
Wealth Pres Cap	121.20	...	- 0.10	...
Wealth Pres Inc	109.60	...	+10.80	...
BonusBond‡	114.00	...	- 1.30	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	208.83	219.82	+ 0.32	...
Index-Linked	209.30	220.30	...	...
Fixed Interest	240.00	252.70	+ 0.10	...
Mixed	383.90	404.30	-11.00	...
UK Equity	388.60	409.10	-19.80	...
International	358.00	377.00	- 7.00	...
American	506.70	533.30	- 3.70	...
Japan	170.90	179.90	- 4.00	...
European	479.40	504.60	- 9.20	...
Pacific	277.10	291.70	- 9.20	...
Technology	666.30	701.30	+ 2.00	...
Prgn Bd/Crncy	246.20	259.20	- 1.00	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	271.80	286.20	+ 0.40	...
UK Equity	634.00	667.40	-11.10	...
American	437.90	461.10	- 4.10	...
Pacific	276.80	291.50	- 8.50	...
European	792.40	834.30	- 3.70	...
Global Mgd	386.10	406.60	- 5.50	...
Fixed Interest	315.00	332.30	+ 0.60	...
Index Linked	253.30	266.70	- 0.10	...
Deposit	224.70	236.70	+ 0.30	...
Managed	426.90	449.40	- 5.70	...
Worldwide	142.60	150.20	- 2.20	...
Pen Worldwide	155.00	163.20	- 2.90	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2683.50	2766.50	+104.20	...
Safety Fund	318.80	335.60	- 0.60	...
Growth Fund	353.00	371.60	- 3.60	...
Opportunity Fd	363.70	382.90	- 2.50	...
Cash Fund	199.50	210.00	+ 0.30	...
European Fund	623.80	656.70	- 1.90	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	274.90	289.40	+ 0.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	231.10	243.30	- 0.10	...
International Fd	366.70	386.10	- 3.30	...
North American	444.60	468.00	- 9.10	...
Property Fund	139.10	146.50	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	425.30	447.70	- 6.00	...
UK Smaller	354.60	373.30	- 0.80	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	407.70	429.30	- 3.40	...
Equity	481.80	507.20	- 3.40	...
International	359.80	378.80	- 2.30	...
Property	274.50	289.10	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	331.40	349.00	+ 0.90	...
Index Linked	232.90	245.30	- 0.30	...
Cash	211.80	223.00	+ 0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1209.20	1286.40	- 7.50	...
Cash Fund	386.40	407.20	...	...
Property Fund	355.70	374.90	+ 0.50	...
Equity Fund	1214.80	1292.40	- 9.10	...
Fxd Interest Fund	647.10	681.90	- 0.20	...
International	508.50	541.00	- 3.60	...
High Income	1224.60	1302.80	-11.50	...
Far East	449.70	478.50	- 9.60	...
North American	968.50	1030.40	-11.10	...
Special Sits	1096.00	1166.00	+ 1.30	...
Technology	1199.70	1276.30	+ 2.90	...
Extra Income Fd	660.90	703.10	- 7.00	...
Gilt Fund	564.00	600.10	+ 0.10	...
European	261.30	278.00	- 0.10	...
Adventurous Mg	290.90	306.60	- 1.60	...
Secure Mgd	210.70	222.10	- 0.40	...
Equity Inc Dist	172.60	181.90	- 0.80	4.19
Managed Dist	143.30	151.10	- 0.10	4.63
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	514.80	547.70	- 1.90	...
North America	607.80	646.60	- 0.50	...
Far East Fund	438.10	466.10	- 6.10	...
Global Managed	667.20	709.80	- 1.90	...
Deposit Fund	260.50	274.30	...	...
Prime Residential	149.50	157.40	...	...
European Fund	483.90	514.80	+ 3.00	...
Fixed Interest	63.90	68.00	- 0.60	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1596.40	1596.40	...	3.36
Inv Pol 2	1438.60	1514.50	...	...
Inv Pol 3	1352.00	1423.20	...	...
Inv Cash	362.70	381.80	...	...
Mixed Fund	673.00	708.60	- 6.00	...
Equity Fund	911.60	959.70	-11.50	...
Property Fund	316.80	333.60	+ 0.40	...
International Fd	618.00	650.70	- 4.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	499.20	525.60	...	...
Indexed Stock Fd	253.30	266.70	...	...
Cash Fund	264.00	278.00	- 0.30	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	588.20	619.10	- 1.60	...
Equity Acc	815.30	858.20	- 1.40	...
International Acc	421.60	443.70	- 4.10	...
Property	269.70	283.80	- 0.30	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	309.00	325.30	+ 0.30	...
Equity	1801.70	1896.60	-25.70	...
European	261.90	275.70	- 1.20	...
Far East	139.50	146.90	- 2.50	...
Fixed Interest	526.90	554.70	- 0.40	...
Index Linked	269.60	283.80	- 0.20	...
International	753.80	793.50	- 6.30	...
Managed	1065.70	1121.80	-10.90	...
Nth American	250.20	263.40	- 1.20	...
Property	443.10	466.50	+ 1.30	...
Pensions				
Cash	503.00	529.50	+ 0.80	...
Equity	2883.30	3035.10	-51.50	...
European	367.90	387.30	+ 2.40	...
Far East	105.10	110.70	- 1.80	...
Fixed Interest	780.00	821.10	- 0.60	...
Index Linked	393.50	414.30	- 0.40	...
International	1140.70	1200.80	- 7.50	...
Managed	1632.90	1718.80	-20.50	...
Nth American	395.00	374.70	- 2.30	...
Property	681.30	717.30	+ 8.60	...
Stock Exchange	364.50	383.70	- 4.80	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	1108.10	1166.40	- 9.60	...
Equity Fund	1610.90	1695.70	-11.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	544.70	573.40	+ 0.30	...
Index-Linked Fd	416.80	438.70	- 0.10	...
Property Fund	596.60	628.00	+ 0.70	...
International Fd	1014.90	1068.30	-19.00	...
N American Fd	524.60	552.20	- 1.30	...
Far East Fund	201.90	212.50	- 1.50	...
Deposit Fund	347.40	365.70	- 0.40	...
Intnl Bd‡	£139.90	...	-090.00	...
Worldwide Bond	169.20	178.10	- 0.80	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	338.10	355.90	+ 0.70	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	1124.50	1183.70	- 9.60	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	685.00	732.60	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund‡	702.60	...	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc‡	647.60	...	+ 0.70	...
Agricultural Fd‡	957.40	...	+ 1.20	...
-do- Acc‡	909.50	...	+ 1.10	...
Abbey Nat Fd‡	516.50	...	+ 0.60	...
Abbey Nat Acc‡	539.60	...	+ 0.60	...
Investment Fd‡	597.40	...	- 4.90	...
Investment (A)‡	570.50	...	- 4.60	...
Equity‡	2382.80	...	-16.60	...
Equity Acc‡	2263.30	...	-15.80	...
Money Fund‡	562.80	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc‡	533.80	...	+ 0.50	...
Actuarial Fd‡	985.30	...	- 8.50	...
Gilt-Edged Fd‡	513.70	...	+ 0.30	...
-do- Acc‡	513.70	...	+ 0.30	...
Retire Annuity‡	1517.90	...	+ 1.90	...
Immed Annuity‡	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life‡	262.20	...	+ 0.30	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc‡	2543.60	...	+ 9.60	...
Managed Acc‡	1320.90	...	+ 0.90	...
Equity Account‡	2158.00	...	- 0.20	...
Mngd Fund Acc	597.30	628.70	- 0.30	...
Equity Fund Acc	925.70	974.40	- 0.10	...
Prop Fund Acc	333.60	351.20	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	425.80	448.20	+ 1.60	...
Money Fund Acc	253.20	266.60	+ 0.30	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	258.70	272.40	+ 1.60	...
Pers Pens Acc‡	3098.10	...	- 6.50	...
Pens Mngd Acc	1439.50	1515.30	- 3.10	...
Pens Guarantee	331.50	348.90	+ 0.60	...
Pens Equity	625.00	657.90	- 1.50	...
Pens Property	386.50	406.80	+ 0.50	...
Pens Fixed Int	428.30	450.90	+ 0.60	...
Pens Intl	344.10	362.20	- 1.20	...
Pens Money	283.40	298.40	+ 0.40	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	260.40	274.10	- 0.30	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1321.10	1390.70	-15.00	...
Property Acc	490.30	516.20	+ 0.60	...
Equity Acc	2486.20	2617.10	-36.20	...
Fixed Int Acc	542.30	570.90	- 0.20	...
Cash Acc	358.50	377.40	+ 0.40	...
Amer Equity Acc	683.10	719.10	- 7.50	...
Japan Acc	183.30	193.00	- 1.10	...
Pacific Acc	280.10	294.90	- 9.80	...
Far Eastern Acc	604.90	636.80	-16.70	...
International Acc	742.30	781.40	- 7.20	...
Distribution Fund	375.30	395.10	- 3.60	4.88
European	331.90	349.40	- 0.90	...
Deffrd Dist	254.70	268.20	- 2.70	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	423.30	445.70	- 5.30	...
Property Fund	255.20	268.80	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest Fd	289.30	304.60	- 0.10	...
Money Fund	231.20	243.50	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	580.30	611.00	- 8.40	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	1059.00	1114.70	- 7.40	...
Money Fund	365.90	385.10	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	1047.60	1102.70	- 9.30	...
Fixed Interest	368.30	387.60	- 0.20	...
Property Fund	464.40	488.80	+ 4.00	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	873.30	919.20	-11.70	...
Income	1209.80	1273.40	-10.60	...
International Gth	851.60	896.60	- 1.90	...
Capital Fund	909.30	957.10	- 8.00	...
Recovery Fund	618.60	651.10	- 5.00	...
Japan & General	175.40	184.60	- 1.80	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	20.84	21.93	+ 0.03	...
Bear	30.13	31.71	- 0.27	...
Owl	33.75	35.52	- 0.28	...
Bull	27.05	28.47	- 0.19	...
Stag	26.02	27.38	- 0.21	...
Gilt Edged	24.28	25.55	- 0.01	...
Deposit	17.94	18.88	+ 0.02	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	29.62	31.17	+ 0.05	...
Bear	45.69	48.09	- 0.51	...
Owl	50.53	53.18	- 0.52	...
Bull	38.10	40.10	- 0.32	...
Stag	36.38	38.29	- 0.33	...
Gilt Edged	33.01	34.74	- 0.01	...
Deposit	24.25	25.52	+ 0.03	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund‡		898.41	- 5.91	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	581.75	612.36	- 5.13	...
N Amer Equity	466.58	491.13	- 0.27	...
Far East Equity	297.93	313.61	- 6.15	...
Fixed	389.01	409.48	- 0.16	...
Cash Deposit	236.20	248.63	+ 0.28	...
Property	197.89	208.30	+ 1.72	...
Special Opp	505.10	531.68	- 4.17	...
Managed	471.14	495.93	- 3.28	...
Index-Linked Fd	235.93	248.34	+ 0.06	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Manpd Acc	879.80	926.10	- 6.10	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	486.50	512.10	- 0.20	...
Life Equity Acc	1382.40	1455.10	-12.30	...
Life Money Acc	343.90	361.90	+ 0.40	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1157.70	1218.60	- 8.10	...
Life Intl Acc	602.00	633.60	- 1.40	...
Life High Inc Acc	1373.30	1445.50	-23.80	...
Life Property Acc	311.20	327.50	+ 2.70	...

Let property occupy a place in your plans

Buying homes to rent out has never been easier, says **Karen Woolfson**

Gone are the days when buying residential property to let was considered such a high risk that interest rates on loans were far higher than the owner-occupier variety. More people can now afford this type of investment and the number of specialised buy-to-let schemes has mushroomed in an attempt to tap into this market. Two new schemes have been launched by Woolwich Direct, one fixed for three years at 7.49 per cent and the other for five years at 7.99 per cent.

The first A-Z guide of buying to let residential property, *Property Investor*, will be published next month by Cambridge Titles, covering everything from how to choose the right location to adding value and maximising rental income.

Malcolm Walton, author and chairman of Senate International, the buy-to-let consultancy, expects property prices to rise steadily in the foreseeable future. He says: "The boom-bust syndrome of the Eighties is over and we are in a low-inflation environment. This will encourage steady increases, though not spectacular, in property prices, at or above the rate of inflation. If you add that to rental income it could make a sound investment."

Yolande Davies, director of research at FPD Savill, the property consultancy, believes that an individual's portfolio should contain stock market and property holdings. She says: "It's all about portfolio diversification. Property investment behaves in a different way to stock markets, and investing in both can diversify your risk."

The rental market has recovered substantially over the past couple of years with people starting to invest in buy-to-let residential property once again. This is the result of the recovery of property prices combined with the changes to housing legislation introduced in 1988, making it easier to remove unwanted tenants and allowing landlords to ask for market rents. At the same time, the number of people who want to rent properties has increased.

Figures from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation index of private rents and yields shows that Britain's average net yield, which is minus the managing and maintenance, on a property was 5.5 per cent and the gross yield 8.6 per cent in the third quarter of 1997. It is crucial to look at net yields rather than be seduced by gross yields in order to create a realistic view of what type of return you can expect from a buy-to-let investment.

Of course, the location is also vital. The highest net yield of 6.9 per cent in the third quarter of last year was in the North West; the West Midlands was not far behind with 6.2 per cent and Greater London came next with 5.9 per cent. The lowest was in Scotland at 4.2 per cent, followed by Wales at 5.1 per cent. However, yields can also vary dramatically within a region so it pays to do plenty of research or use the services of a buy-to-let consultant.

The Association of Residential Letting Agents (Arla) is a useful first port of call and has more than a thousand member offices. Arla was the first organisation to launch a buy-to-let scheme in 1996 and has introduced a number of others since then, including one with Halifax Mortgage Services and another with Woolwich Direct.

Andrew Reeves, a national council member for Arla who runs a letting agency in Kent, says one of the best deals being offered at present is a fixed rate of 6.99 per cent for three years from Paragon Mortgages.

Malcolm Walton claims that "everything's negotiable" and brokers can sometimes arrange special deals with lenders. He says Abbey National is offering the lowest rate at 4.99 per cent fixed for two years, while the Royal Bank of Scotland is offering 7.75 per cent fixed over five years and a variable rate of 8.45 per cent.

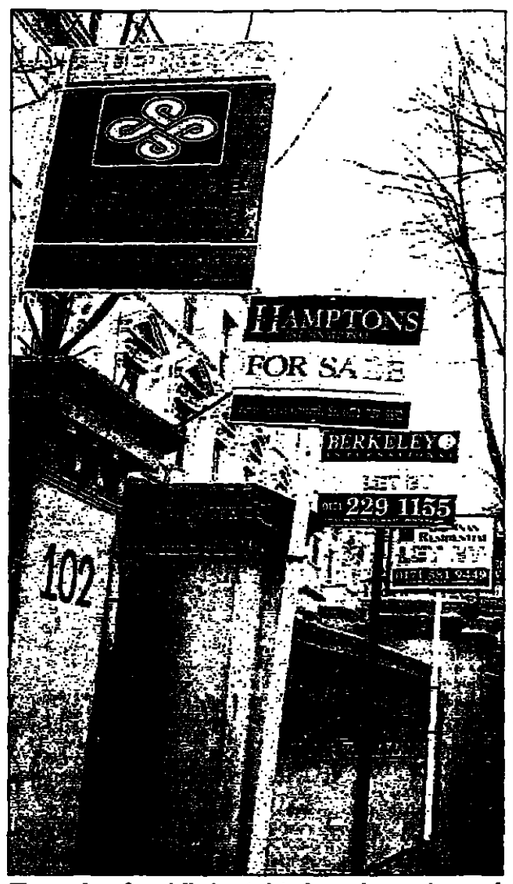
Apart from organising the finance, a buy-to-let consultant can advise on part or the whole process including: a suitable type of property within your income range; the location; likely rental income; how to refurbish the dwelling; letting, managing and maintaining the property. As part of the service, some consultants will lock you into an agreement that allows them to let and manage the property.

Before taking the plunge, consider the potential drawbacks. If you opt for a variable rate mortgage be prepared for the worst, which is a possible increase despite the general view that this is unlikely. Remember that property prices can go down as well as up and that it is best to invest for the long term; do not scrimp on refurbishment because the more attractive a property is the less risk there will be of vacant periods between tenancies.

Bear in mind that the best rental locations are generally in London or in university cities such as Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh and Bristol, where many young people have not yet jumped on to the housing ladder. But beware houses with large gardens as they could cause maintenance problems.

Buying a property to let could turn out to be a profitable move, allowing you to pay off your mortgage with the rental income, benefit from any income left over plus gain from the appreciation in the property value. However, it could also be a nightmare if you choose the wrong location, property prices slump, you find it difficult to let or attract tenants that trash the place.

■ Copies of *Private Investor* from Cambridge Titles, telephone 01223-847 799.



The number of specialist buy-to-let schemes has mushroomed

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Law Society moves to simplify system

Buying a house could become quicker and less traumatic if proposals to break property buying chains and reduce the risk of gazumping are accepted.

The Law Society this week announced radical plans including the formation of "stockholding companies" which would buy properties to prevent long chains from forming or enable sellers to move if a chain breaks down.

The proposals, being submitted to the Government Homebuying Review Group, also call for a more flexible system of mortgage lending so sellers could move before their property is sold. The cost of having two mortgages simultaneously would be spread over a number of years.

Other plans include measures to tackle the risk of gazumping by ensuring that a seller has done the paperwork before a house is put on the market. The seller's package would include a draft contract, a local authority search and basic information about the property so that the buyer can exchange contracts as soon as a sale is agreed.

The Law Society also wants mortgage lenders to standardise and streamline instructions to solicitors and it has produced a standard model for use in conveyancing transactions.

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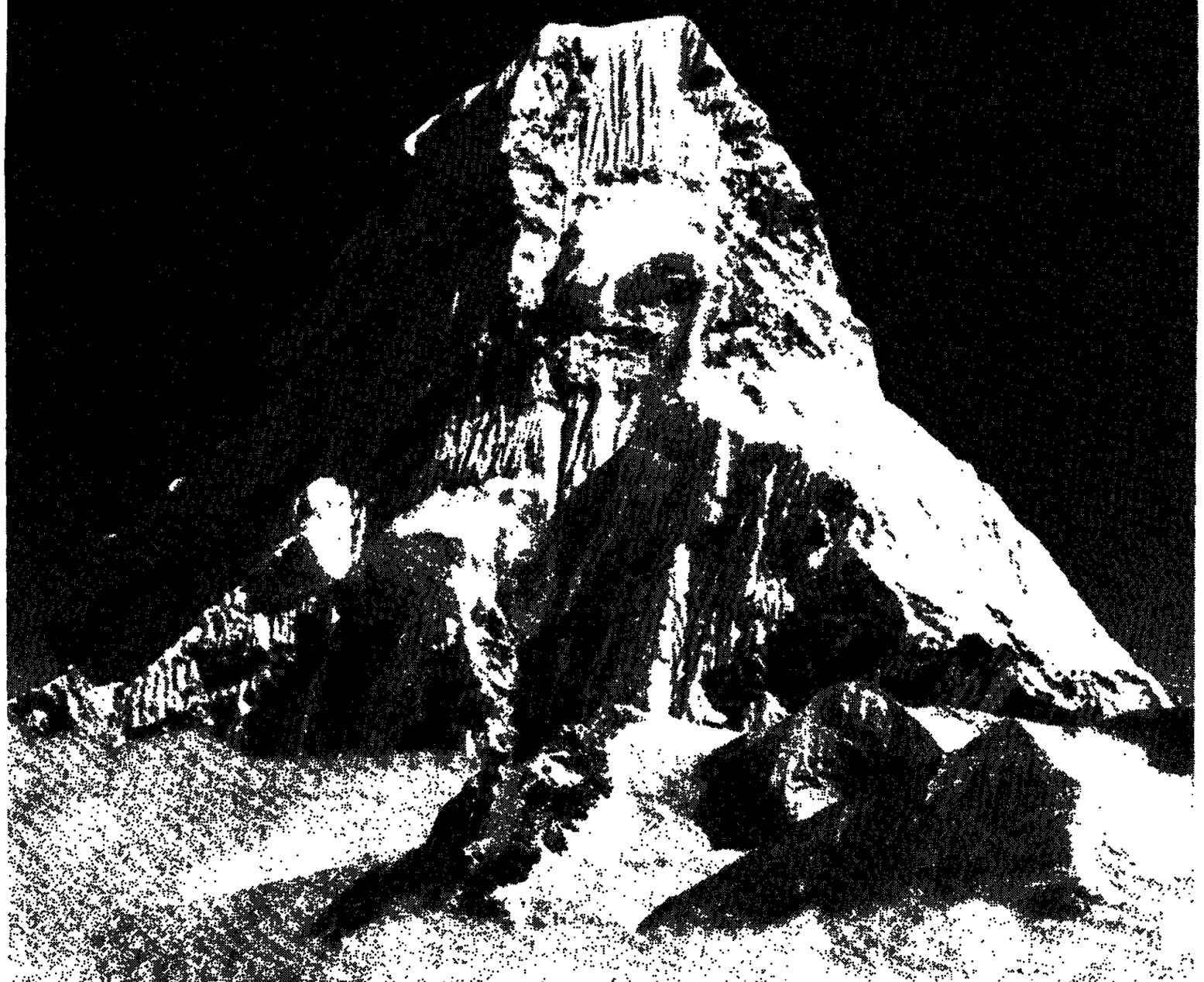
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Expanding home and away: "If we Brits buy such diverse products as knickers, smoked salmon and unit trusts from M&S, why won't consumers from other nations?"

Share in M&S success story

IN THE first of our new share-picking series, Stella Shamoon, private investor, focuses on Britain's best-known stores group.



SHARE OF THE MONTH

STELLA SHAMOON

Talk about when to buy and when to sell shares misses the point. It is not *when* to buy (or sell) but *what* to buy (and hold through thick and thin) that will earn you breathtaking profits.

Do not buy cheap and sell expensive, because cheap shares are not necessarily good value because they reflect higher risk.

We cannot avoid a general decline in stock markets — especially now when the price tags of businesses quoted on markets in the West are stretched and earnings growth this year will be weak.

Few people accurately predict the market's short-term behaviour, and even if we are lucky and get out at the right time, we are unlikely to get in again at the right time.

Conditions remain favourable for shares over the long term — not least because Western economies are sound and savers are seeking to fund their retirements. So forget market timing. We are going to concentrate on *what to buy, and why.*

We will buy shares in companies that are the elite of world-class businesses. They will have unique or strong franchises, high profit margins, low-cost bases and tight financial controls.

The sort of companies we are after have a deep culture and commitment to their people, products and policies. Invariably they are led by a small executive team which shares a strategic vision and has the guts to sacrifice profits now for greater profits later.

Marks & Spencer checks out on most of the above criteria. Yet its shares have underperformed the FTSE 100 and fallen some 15 per cent since November from their 52-week peak of 683p. At Thursday's closing price of 575p, the shares yield 2.9 per cent and stand at a price earnings (p/e) ratio of 21.

What has reduced the blessed St Michael to this? The nation's most profitable retailer is spending £2.1 billion over three years to expand its selling space by 4 million sq ft to 18 million. Another £400 million is earmarked for stores overseas. M&S's track record abroad has been patchy, notably in the US, where the ill-fated $1 billion (£598 million) investment in Brooks Brothers and Kings Supermarkets in 1988 is still not making acceptable profits.

But that is being churlish, because M&S scores many more goals than it concedes. Look at its sales of nearly £700 per sq ft on average (and £1,000-plus per sq ft in its 100,000 to 150,000 sq ft superstores). Look at its £1.102 billion pre-tax profit in 1996-97, a 14 per cent return on sales. Surely this explosion of new space is to be celebrated as investment now for far greater profits later?

But performance-related fund managers are not fixed on future gains but only on the pressure on M&S's earnings in the year to March 31, and which will continue in the current year as the investment has an impact on the business. To a company with the strength of M&S, these are but small clouds that will break in about 18 months and reveal sterling silver linings.

On May 19 M&S will unveil its 1997-98 results. These are expected to be marginally ahead at £1.12 billion. If results and prospects for the current year disappoint, the shares will fall. The price does not reflect the value of its mega world brand. But M&S's future as a global retailer is inevitable because it will directly benefit from the growth of people's aspirations and affluence throughout the world.

Meanwhile, the darkest cloud is the currency loss caused by the strength of sterling, price deflation in Europe and not least the collapse of sales in the Far East. The currency loss was more than £20 million in 1997-98. And the pain will go on for a bit longer. But the silver lining to sterling's strength is that M&S can buy property abroad at a discount, notably in France, Germany, Hong Kong and even Japan.

Another black cloud hangs over the retail sector: uncertainty about whether UK interest rates have peaked at 7.25 per cent and are set to fall, or if they rise and lead to an export-led recession. If so, the timing of Marks & Spencer's expansion is impeccable: invest during a downturn and be ready to profit when growth resumes.

In the UK, the good news is that conversion of the 19 Littlewoods stores acquired for £192 million will add 500,000 sq ft to 600,000 sq ft, giving 1.1 million sq ft of new prime space in the current year. However, these new stores are unlikely to contribute much into profit until 1999-2000. Nor will the recently launched clothing catalogue be profitable for a year or so.

Replacement of tills in the current year will cost at least £100 million, with extra costs for staff training.

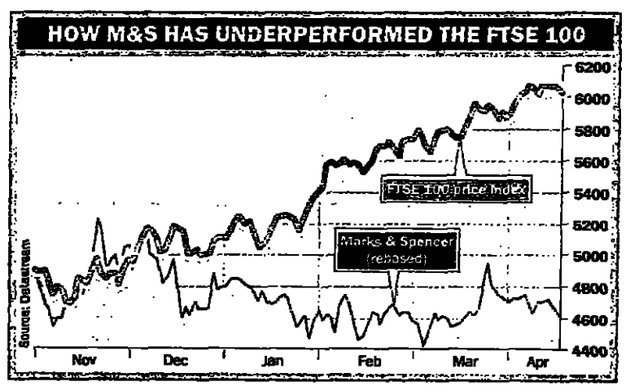
Retail analysts and fund managers may be neutral about M&S shares, while the far-less-profitable Kingfisher strikes them as an exciting growth stock. But some 14 million shoppers — four million with cash cards — go through M&S's 373 stores each week. They are not neutral.

They want more stores, more new products and services in fashion, homeware and fresh foods. The City believes that the pre-chilled formula has gone stale. But M&S's next innovation is to be fresh foods sold in the traditional style, like the Harrods food hall.

I for one am buying into the future prospect of Marks & Spencer — global brand. If we Brits buy such diverse products and services as knickers, smoked salmon and unit trusts from M&S, why won't consumers from other nations also respond?

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Magnus Grimond on the FTSE 250, home to Kwik-Fit and Argos

Investors size up the second-line shares

Among most investors, the love affair with the FTSE 100 shows no signs of cooling. For some, however, the focus is shifting from the big names of the kingpin index to smaller stocks, the members of the FTSE 250 index, the "Footsie" waiting room.

Over the three months to April, the proportion of professional investors expecting good things from second-liners has jumped from 15 per cent to 46 per cent, according to the regular survey of investment institutions by Merrill Lynch, the broker, and Gallup, the market research group.

So what are these companies that the City is beginning to find attractive? Household names are thinner on the ground than in the FTSE 100, but there are still plenty in the 250 index. Argos, Avis Europe, Debenhams, Hanson, Kwik-Fit, and Pizza Express all find homes there.

Constituents range in size from the £300 million Carpetright, Lord Harris of Peckham's carpet store group, to Misys, the banking software company now valued at more than £3.1 billion after seeing its shares nearly triple in 12 months. Yet despite the presence of 22 companies worth more than £2 billion, the 250 is not highly valued. Accounting for about 17 per cent of the market, it is dwarfed by the Footsie's 77 per cent slice.

That proportion could grow if the City now starts to buy the shares. Opinion, however, remains divided. It has certainly not been wrong to shun mid-caps over the past few years.

Figures from Datastream/ICV show that the 250 index lagged or only just kept up with the rest of the stock market in 1995 and 1996. The gap began to yawn last year, with the junior index underperforming by nearly 11 per cent. The divergence was mostly down to investors' peculiar love affair with a handful of big FTSE 100 companies such as BP, Glaxo Wellcome and Lloyds TSB.

Amounting to over half the premier index, the pharmaceutical, financial and oil sectors so much in vogue last year form a relatively small 19 per cent part of the 250. Add in foreign investors' penchant for the big, internationally traded stocks found in the Footsie, and it is not hard to explain the difference in performance.

That all seemed to change in January when the failure of the mega-merger of Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham soured investors' view of pharmaceutical stocks. Buoyed by hopes that US money was now pouring into mid-caps, institutions began to seek out value lower down the scale.



Lord Harris of Peckham's Carpetright is in the FTSE 250

However, their interest has yet to show up in valuations. Despite rising by around 15 per cent this year, the mid-250 index is still trailing the market by more than 1.5 per centage points in 1998. That is throwing up some good value, according to Philip Wolstencroft of Merrill Lynch. "We are positive on 250 stocks compared with the 100 index," he said. "They are obviously on better valuations, being roughly 20 per cent cheaper on p/e grounds than Footsie stocks. Yet they have similar growth potential and there have been fewer [profits] downgrades."

Julian Cook, of AIB Govett, one of the few groups to run a 250 index tracker fund, said that the view that mid-cap stocks have not been delivering the rises in earnings available elsewhere has been proved wrong. In fact, looking one year out, earnings forecasts put 250 growth at 8 per cent, two points ahead of the Footsie. Yet the typical 250 stock is at 17 times future earnings, against 20 for the average Footsie company.

"In the last couple of years, mid-cap companies have had better growth rates," Mr Cook said. "The discount has narrowed a bit recently, but although the performance of the 250 has been better — it had a good January to March — it has only been making up for a poor period prior to that."

Even so, that discount may be hard to shift. Richard Jeffrey, of Charterhouse Tilney Securities, believes. He said: "There probably still is value [among the 250]. Whether you are going to get anyone to exploit it there in the near term, I sort of doubt. You are going to get profit disappointments in the short term, which will hit the 250 disproportionately."

The problem is the UK economy. Around 50 per cent of mid-cap earnings come from their home patch, against 40 per cent for Footsie companies. Mr Jeffrey says that this domestic orientation means that the 250 is caught in a "Catch 22". Either UK growth is now slowing of its own accord, which will hit earnings, or it is not slowing enough, which means that interest rates will have to rise and share ratings will be cut. Both are bad news for UK earners.

More damning criticism comes from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the investment bank. Some 28 per cent of the mid-cap index falls in general industrial sectors, such as engineering and chemicals, compared with just 7 per cent of the Footsie. DKB says that these are the sectors most directly hurt by the strong pound, which is making exports more expensive and imports cheaper, thus intensifying domestic competition.

However, although the rest of the market thinks the pain will be eased when the pound falls later this year, Philip Isherwood, of DKB, thinks his colleagues are in for a shock. As Britian moves closer to EMU in, say, 2002, the pound is likely to remain high, he predicts. That is because the UK, on his analysis, is likely to enter EMU at an exchange rate of around DM2.95, not the DM2.65 widely expected elsewhere.

Past experience would suggest that, at this late stage in the economic cycle, smaller companies should be enjoying stronger growth than their larger brethren. However, that has all been changed by the increased importance of international flows of money, combined with low inflation expectations. Efficiency has become the object of investors' quests, and restructuring, demergers and consolidation have become fashionable ways to create it.

Big companies still have the edge there, as shown by the huge merger of Citicorp and Travelers in the US. So 250 index trackers may continue to underperform, but, as everyone agrees, careful stock selection will still find individual winners in any index.

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LOST MARKET 50

Graham Searjeant asks where the new issues went

WEEKEND MONEY

ON THE MOVE 52

Pension options for when you change jobs



Gavin Lumsden says the Easter floods herald a truce in cost-cutting war

Home insurance set to rise



No escape, but the Easter weekend flooding is being treated as a one-off, "due to a large amount of surface water after an exceptional downpour"

Shares in household insurers fell this week as estimates of the cost of the damage caused by last weekend's floods in the Midlands and East Anglia reached £500 million.

However, it is homeowners not shareholders who will ultimately pay the price of the Easter deluge. Insurers, who in recent years have been busy cutting each other's throats in a savage price war, are widely expected to use the floods as cover for an unofficial ceasefire. As a result, premiums on most household insurance policies across the country are expected to rise by between 5 and 10 per cent in the next six months.

Householders in flood-prone areas from the Humber to the Thames can expect steeper rises of another 10 per cent. Flood cover is now a standard part of household insurance; however, insurers are increasingly adapting premiums to reflect the risk of floods in certain areas, although so far floods are nowhere near as significant a factor as either subsidence or the incidence of crime.

General Accident, for example, divides its home contents policies into 17 ratings, ranging from very low to very high risk. Whereas flood risk will push a household up by one rating, the risk of subsidence can force a rise of three or four ratings.

However, Arthur Philp, the home technical manager at General Accident, gave warning that this could change in the future as global warming and land shifts raise sea levels along the eastern and southern coasts of England, increasing the possibility that sea defences will be breached.

Mr Philp said: "Insurers are very sensitive to the problems and will avoid treating floods in the same way as they do subsidence. We would prefer to work with the Environment Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food so they can give priority to areas where sea defences should be strengthened."

Not all the energies are being devoted to the coast. The Environment Agency is constructing a channel near Reading to prevent the Thames flooding after heavy rainfall. Work along the Severn and Tay, which are susceptible to melting snow in winter, is being considered.

Homeowners in the Midlands and East Anglia should not suffer higher insurance bills because of the Easter weekend floods. Much of the flooding was due to the large amounts of surface water left after the exceptional downpour. It was a one-off that could happen anywhere, say insurers.

Whatever the future, wide differences in the cost of insurance are expected to remain. Buildings insurance, which homeowners have to buy to obtain a mortgage, currently varies between £1.25 and £6 per £1,000 of cover. Insuring the contents of your home is more expensive, ranging between £2 and £10 per £1,000 of cover.

Although it is possible to buy the two types of cover separately it can be difficult to ensure that there are no loopholes. As a result, most people buy combined building and contents insurance policies. Although these do not save money, they give peace of mind.

With such wide price disparities it can pay to shop around. However, Richard Ault, an insurance broker in Birmingham, says that the cheapest deal is not always the best. "When you come to make a claim, the insurer with a cheap policy will probably not offer the level of service you might have expected, and might take a hard look at your claim."

Service and claim handling has improved markedly in the past three years as insurers compete to be different and better than other companies. An increasing number use companies such as Hambros Legal Services or Europ Assist to co-ordinate their helplines and to send accredited contractors to repair damaged houses. Most still require policyholders to pay for the repairs upfront and then claim the money. Norwich Union and Barclays, however, have gone one step further and pay all bills direct. Not everyone has reached this level of efficiency, however. With the latest crisis occurring at Bank Holiday weekend many insurers' helplines were understaffed and policyholders were left speaking to answering machines.

When choosing a policy, beware of underestimating the value of your household contents, says Mr Ault. "Some insurers will assess the value of all your contents when you make a claim, not just those things that need replacing. If you have insured your contents for £30,000 when in fact the real value is £50,000, some insurers will say you are only 60 per cent insured. So if you have had a loss of £5,000 they will pay you only £3,000."

This practice of "averaging" is obviously controversial. Many insurers now avoid it by offering homeowners limits up to which they will insure. Claims below this will be met in full.

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WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth



GUY NEWMAN

Shame of missing refunds

THE mis-selling of home income plans to pensioners in the Eighties remains one of the biggest scandals in financial services (see pages 58-59).

Ageing homeowners have so far received £46 million in compensation. However, little has come the way of 84-year-old John Budgen, pictured, and 120 other elderly investors who put their faith in the schemes. They lost £4 million when their financial adviser went bankrupt, and they have had no redress even though the adviser was a former call-girl and was later convicted of theft.

Backing for battling captain

Captain Allan Marshall, a disgruntled saver with Bradford & Bingley (B&B), has won the support of more than 50 fellow members to table a motion of no confidence against Chris Rodriguez, the building society's chief executive. The 65-year-old retired captain is one of the society's many savers who feel that they are earning poor returns because their money has been locked into uncompetitive accounts while new members reap the benefits of the latest rate changes and savings structures.

However, building society rules will not allow Captain Marshall to table his motion at the society's forthcoming annual meeting in ten days' time. Although he will be raising the issue of the treatment of longstanding savers in questions to the board, he must wait until next year formally to table a motion against the top man.

Weekend Money has highlighted the problems caused when building societies and banks change rates and throw out obsolete accounts in an attempt to top the best-buy charts. Captain Marshall, who spoke of the B&B's "shabby treatment", has been inundated with calls from other members. He was also contacted by the chief executive, Mr Rodriguez. Many of those who wrote to the captain feel the B&B is not giving a good service because of its mutual status.

Captain Marshall said: "I have had an overwhelming response but I think much of it has to do with the fact the society has not converted. In addition to not getting a payout, people are not getting very good rates. So they are far more likely to complain. It would not be an exaggeration to describe the situation as volatile. The vast majority would prefer building societies to convert.

"The way forward may be to introduce some new blood on to the board."

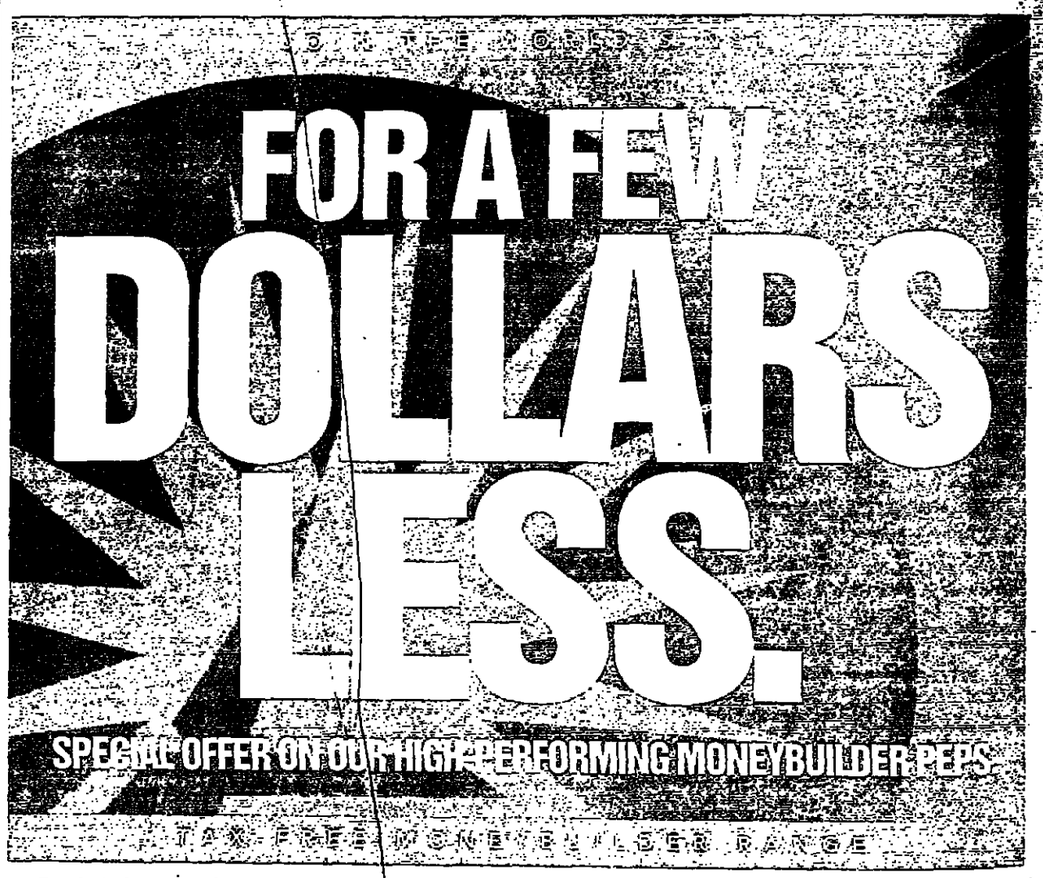
The B&B said: "You can't be best in all areas of operations. Yes, you will see some other people offering very high rates. We aim to offer good rates to everybody."

The B&B pays 6.55 per cent on its one-year bond, 6.8 per cent on its postal instant access for sums over £1,000, and 6.95 per cent on its 30-day notice account for the same amount. However, those with £1,000 deposited in the instant access account will earn only 4.55 per cent, which includes a bonus for less than three withdrawals.

SUSAN EMMETT



Captain Marshall: savers' crusade



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SATURDAY APRIL 18 1998

THE TIMES

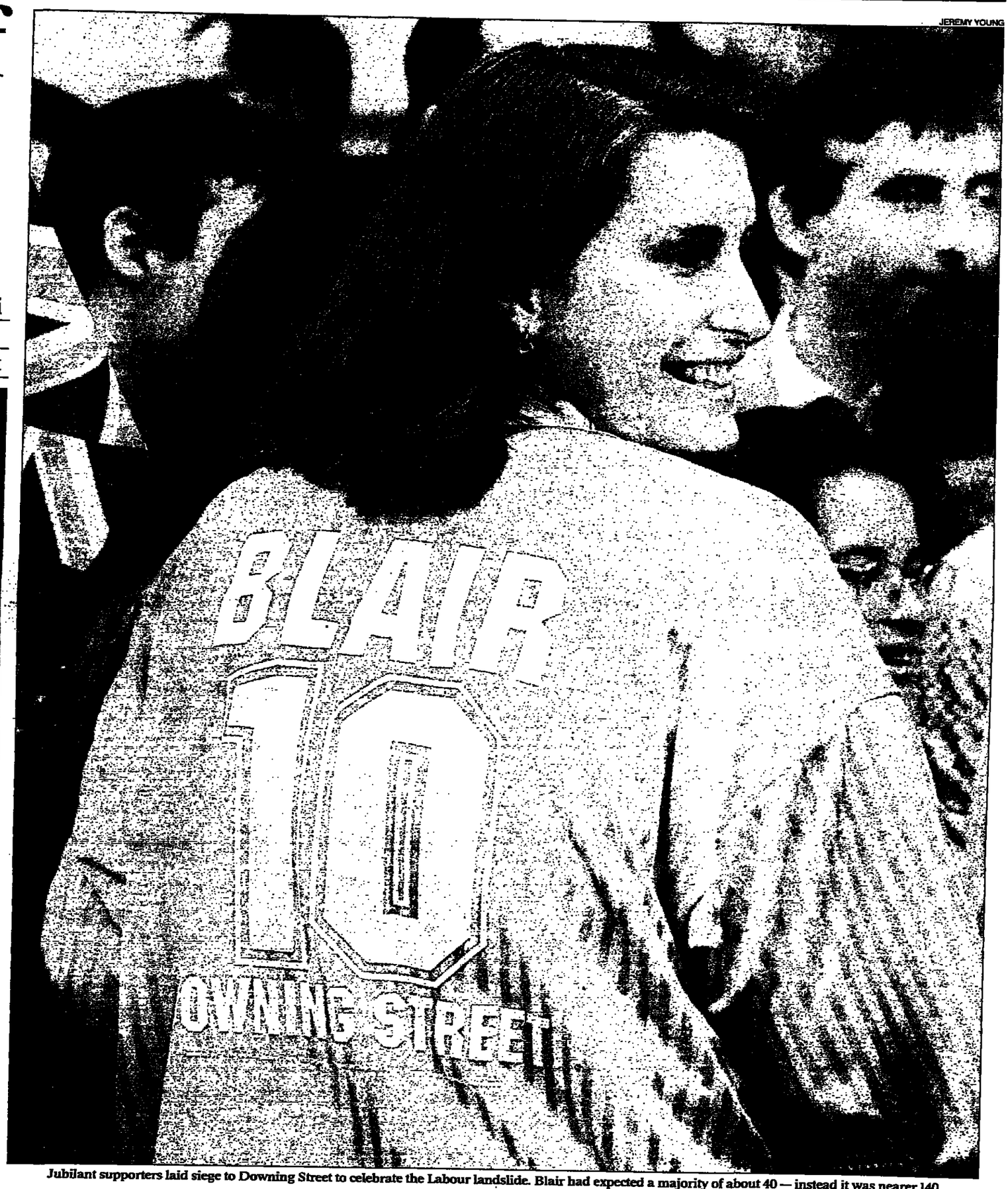
WEEKEND

Night of the big party

Marmite sandwiches, a soothing Jacuzzi and Portillo's lost car; Michael Gove rakes up the real stories of election night



A hug of congratulations for Tony Blair from his wife Cherie



JEREMY YOUNG

Jubilant supporters laid siege to Downing Street to celebrate the Labour landslide. Blair had expected a majority of about 40 — instead it was nearer 140

When nemesis called on Oscar Wilde he was drinking hock and seltzer in the Cadogan Hotel. When it called on John Major he was at home in Huntingdon sipping tea with Norma in his'n'her towelling dressing-gowns. Nemesis knocked on many doors on the night of May 1 and the victor's laurels descended on to scores of unexpected brows. As we approach the first anniversary of Labour's landslide victory the scenes from that night will be replayed on television. How our politicians treated those two imposters, triumph and disaster, is as good a guide to their worth as any number of green papers and stump speeches.

The abiding impression from the men who matter is of ordinariness at an extraordinary moment, calmness amid turmoil. When election day dawned Tony Blair was confident of victory. He had become convinced after witnessing the Tories disintegrate on Europe, telling his press secretary Alastair Campbell, "they can't come back after this". But long experience of disappointed hopes had inoculated him against arrogance. He told friends up until polling day that he thought a majority of "around forty" was on the cards.

On the afternoon of May 1, news reached Blair's chief of staff Jonathan Powell that Labour was on course for a majority nearer

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In search of spiritual enlightenment, **David Bowker** spends a week as a student of the New Age and finds the centre of his Universe is at Selfridges

It's a groovy kind of self-love

Last Monday, an oblong package from Selfridges landed on my doormat. Called "The Selfridges Box of Simple Pleasures", it contained one hundred cards, each bearing a different piece of advice such as "have a good cry" or "stroke an animal".

The cards arrived with a note that read: "Regard this box as the escape route to Planet You: simply open it and reflect, relax and smile your way through the next few minutes." Unless, of course, you're having a good cry.

I've visited Planet Me before. The planet's surface is covered in craters and there's no sign of intelligent life. No sooner had this cynical thought entered my head than a card fell out of the pack. It said: "Put cynicism on hold." Impressed. I decided to take this statement at face value. For seven days, I became a student of the New Age. On Tuesday morning, I picked a card that urged me to "Discover a new taste". Later, my son, aged two, approached me, his hands apparently covered in chocolate. He offered me a finger. I licked it. It wasn't chocolate. But it was definitely a new taste. Some people think that the centre of the Universe is in Tibet. Others believe it's in Glastonbury.

But after a morning spent on Planet Me, I realised that the Universe begins and ends at Selfridges. I set off on a pilgrimage to my shopping Mecca, taking my Box of Simple Pleasures with me. En route, I began to get suspicious. The cards in my pleasure box weren't as spiritual as I'd thought. On the back of a card containing the word "Smile" I read: "Say Cheese. There are over 200 cheeses in the Selfridges' Food Hall." The card entitled me to 20 per cent off the cheeses.

Keeping my cynicism on hold, I went to Selfridges' Food Hall and got 20 per cent off a pound of roquefort. In the book department I bought a New Age self-help guide called *Creative Visualisation* by

SEVEN LONG DAYS



Shakti Gawain, which contained the reassuring notion that I inhabit a rich universe and it is OK for me to have anything I want.

On my way out, I saw two store detectives chasing a shoplifter, who also thought it was OK to have anything he wanted. Back at home, my Box of Simple Pleasures advised me to take a hot bath. I read Shakti Gawain in the tub. Shakti recommends practising affirmations. An affirmation is basically a piece of wishful thinking such as "I like being fat" or "I love the world and the world loves me". The idea being that if you repeat an affirmation often enough, it becomes true in reality. So if you're short of cash all you have to do is say "I deserve to be prosperous and happy", and the Universe will write you out a fat cheque. This isn't as easy as it sounds.

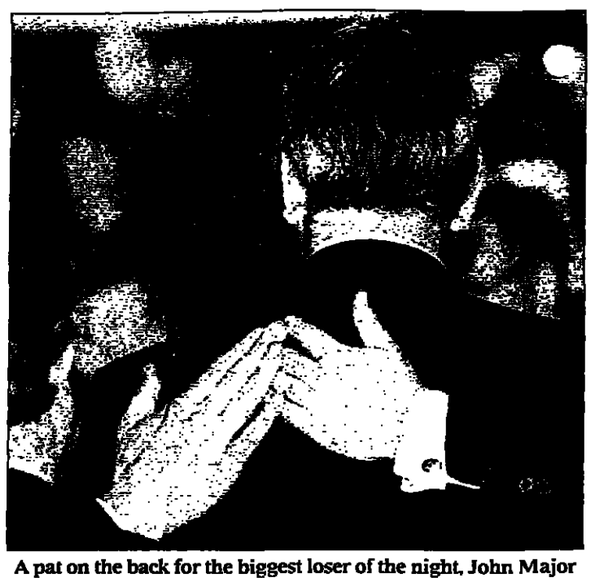
All day Wednesday I chanted: "I am fabulously wealthy." But on Thursday morning my bank manager phoned to ask about my overdraft. Which surprised me, because I don't even have a bank account. On Friday I got bored of affirming. I went out to look for ley lines. A ley line is an ancient underground line of power that links mystical sites. Sure enough, I found a ley line linking Tower Records with Dorothy Perkins. Then the ley line crossed the road to Boots, went to the basement and purchased some contact lens solution. It crossed the road again, browsed through the knicker department at Marks & Spencer and ended its journey at: guess where? Selfridges, the centre of the Universe.

At the end of this week, I must admit that I'm a convert to the New Age. I learned to love myself; I've asked myself to marry me, and I've said "yes".

And it doesn't stop there. I love you, even though I don't know you. And you love me, even though you think I'm stupid. Because basically, I love the world and the world loves me. And you are growing more and more attractive by the day. Don't we make a great team?

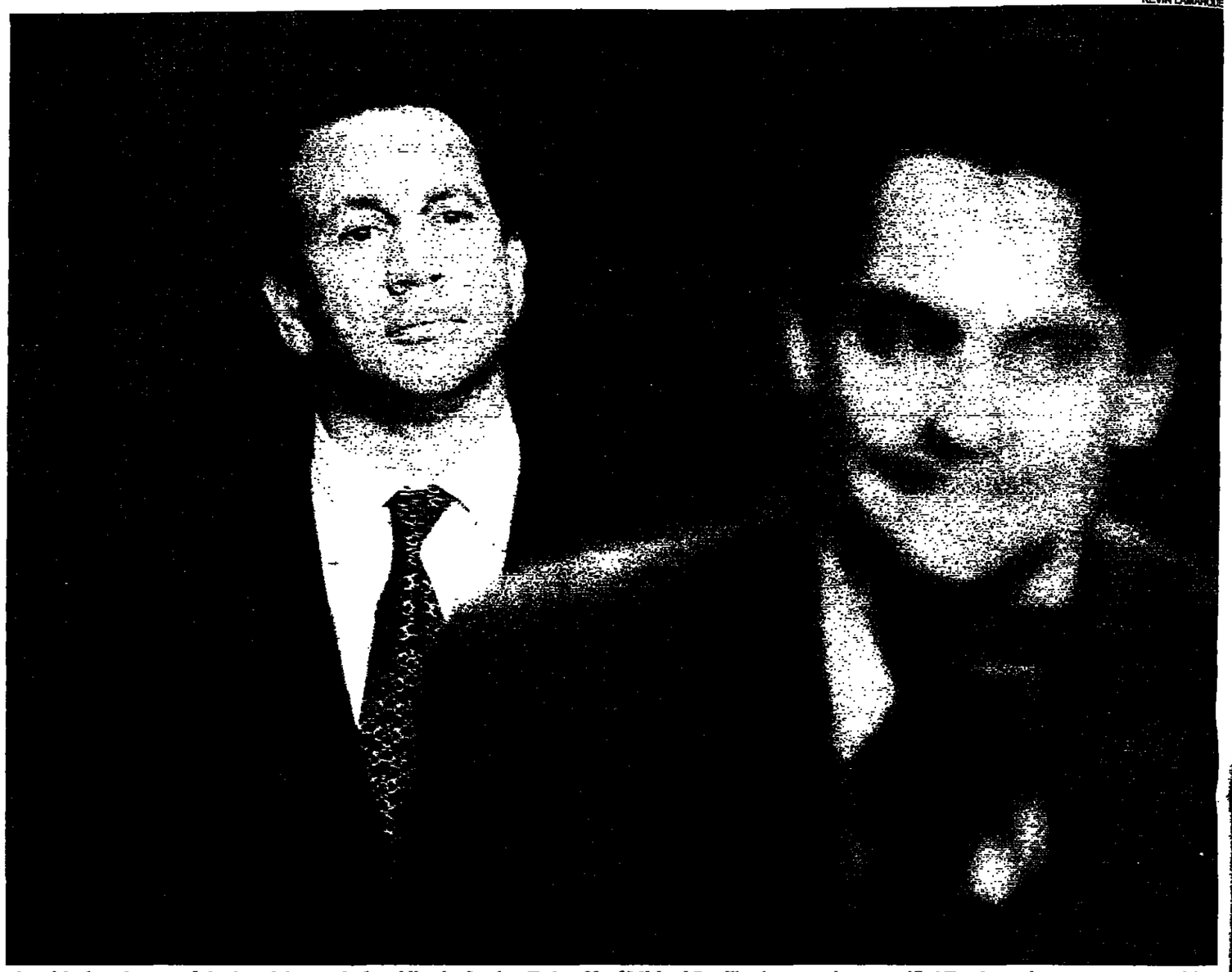


KEVIN LAMARQUE



A pat on the back for the biggest loser of the night, John Major





Kenneth Clarke, left, hired his own van to move out. But for many, the wickedest pleasure of election night was the humbling by Stephen Twigg, 30, of Michael Portillo, the man who personified Toryism at its most uncompromising

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140. When he tried to find the leader to break the news, he discovered the future Prime Minister dozing on a deck chair in his Sedgefield garden, enjoying his last sleep of Opposition. Powell decided not to wake the sleeping prince but minutes later the neighbours' children burst through the security cordon to rouse Blair, asking if his sons, Euan and Nicky, could come out to play.

Seeing Blair woken, Powell, joined by Peter Mandelson, told the still-drowsy leader, in the words of one aide, "his dream was about to come true". Blair, after absorbing the news, knew what his first priority was and strode towards the kitchen. There, according to Lauren Booth, his half-sister-in-law, he set about making Marmite sandwiches for his children.

A fortnight before, one of the most important tasks for the incoming Government had been delegated to Jackie Stacey, head of Labour's Events and Projections Unit. She was asked to ensure that Labour hit the ground dancing. After homing in on the Festival Hall as a suitable venue for victory celebrations, preparations had to be made in secret lest an impression of complacency was created. Stacey knew all about hubris. She had helped set up the Sheffield Rally in 1992 where an air-punching Neil Kinnock had celebrated too loudly, too soon.

The Festival Hall, a creation of the Attlee Government, was chosen for its historical resonance and also, in Blair's words, because it would "allow members at home to feel part of the event". Deirdre Candlin, the hall manager, was telephoned just a week before polling day by an anonymous caller with what she remembers as a "friendly voice" who wanted to book it for "an important organisation which was in the public eye".

While Blair was pacing one floor in Sedgefield, waiting for his own count, the floor in the Festival Hall was packed with cheering, dancing supporters. Aides abandoned their reserve when they saw Dave Hill, the party's veteran spin-doctor, getting down to *Things Can Only Get Better* in the small hours.

Blair had taken his children with him to the Sedgefield count at Cherie's insistence. He recalls her saying: "Look, this is a one-off opportunity for them. They would regret it if they didn't participate."

Euan, Nicky and Kathryn were not the only ones to share the pleasure. The normally icy Mandelson admits to having "tears welling up" when Blair made his speech at the count. After the euphoria of Sedgefield, Blair sped to Teesside Airport where a jet took him to Stansted. On the flight Blair was updated by an emotional Mandelson who recounted, seat-by-seat, the scale of the landslide.



Even the normally icy Peter Mandelson was affected by the fever of victory and had "tears welling up" when Blair made his speech



Tony Blair greets supporters at the Festival Hall in London

For Blair, victory was as much about the coming to power of a generation as about the success of one man. He says: "A whole lot of people who had been at college ten, 15 years ago, thought their time had come, that in a sense they were taking charge with us."

That generation was in full cry when Blair mounted the podium to welcome a "new dawn". I remember seeing two university contemporaries, one the soberest of Scots, embrace as Blair arrived and sob together "this is our moment".

Not every expression of delight was so decorous. On the fringes of the crowd a group were chanting, to the tune of the Lightning Seeds' *Football's Coming Home*, "He's on the dole, he's on the dole, Portillo's on the dole".

For many, the purest, wickedest pleasure of the night was the humbling of Michael Portillo. The man who had come to personify Toryism at its most uncompromising was felled by the apple-cheeked 30-year-old Stephen Twigg. For Portillo it was devastating. He might have expected to lead the Tory Party had he held his seat, but five days beforehand he saw the writing on the wall or, more accurately, the polling in *The Observer*. He recalls: "A poll had been taken in my constituency putting me just three points ahead, which was much less than I had been assuming and told people if they voted tactically they could get rid of me. Other people poohpoohed this but I took it pretty seriously."

How seriously became apparent on the day when Portillo remembers "people were just not looking you in the eye. I knew I had lost when I went to the count, so it was just a question of getting things over with. The returning officer said 'this is what I am going to read out — are you happy with this?' and I said, 'Ecstatic' ".

After a dignified acknowledgement of defeat, Portillo drove to Conservative Central Office to thank staff for their efforts. As he emerged into the the flashbulbs' glare a different worry gripped him — he had forgotten where he had parked his car.

One other battle-scarred veteran felt for Portillo that day. Although his own seat was rock-solid, Major was the biggest loser. Not since 1832 had a Tory leader been defeated so badly. On the evening of May 1 Major dined on fish and chips before retiring with Norma to his Jacuzzi. When he came down to watch the election results on television the two of them were in their white towelling dressing-gowns, for all the world like a couple on holiday.

Major knew to expect the worst. He had been rung at 5pm that day to be told that private polls indicated the initial estimate of 240 Tory seats was a dramatic over-estimate. He had fallen silent.

Watching was agony. Anthony Seldon, Major's biographer, reports someone present as saying, "it was like death". At midnight

Portillo said no one would look him in the eye

Major phoned Blair to concede. Blair remembers: "He was dignified and courteous, as you would expect, and put me at my ease. It was a rather difficult call for me."

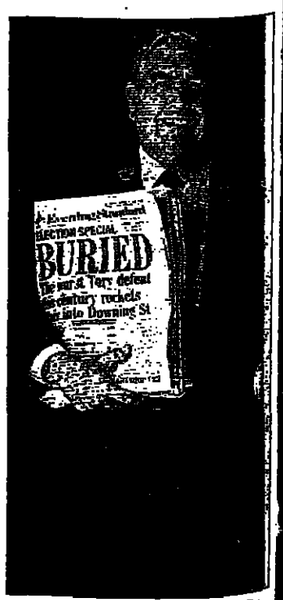
After winning his own seat comfortably and thanking party workers, Major was driven to Central Office to commiserate with his election team. On the way his car was held up on the Embankment, just opposite the Festival Hall, at precisely the moment when the Blairs arrived to acknowledge their supporters' cheers.

At Central Office, Major's stoic presence helped calm the tearful activists, but he was fighting to master difficult emotions. After a speech of thanks he retired to a private office where wine and sandwiches were laid out, but he had no appetite for the funeral baked meats.

His next stop was Downing Street, where his bags were packed as they had been before the 1992 election. But this time there would be no happy return. The transition had been smoothly arranged, unlike that of his neighbour at No 11, Ken Clarke, who had to hire his own removal van.

According to an aide, Major was not bitter because that would have meant blaming the British people. Instead he was looking forward, not to a hock and seltzer, but to a gin and tonic at the Oval — where nemesis humbles the mighty daily but there is always a chance to hit back.

A Night to Remember will be broadcast tonight at 9pm on Channel 4



The doorman at No 10 waits to meet his new boss

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A green land fit for man and beast

Colin Tudge argues that the countryside White Paper demands redical thinking

Environment Minister Michael Meacher says that the Government's proposed White Paper on the Future of Rural Britain must provide "an over-arching new vision", and indeed it must. Our countryside is a mess — lovely to look at when at its best, but an ageing sepulchre: beleaguered farmers, bewildered communities, no buses, no shops, no schools, no hospitals, and a wildlife shot to pieces.

But the remedies proposed by the quarter of a million people who fell upon Hyde Park in March are surely misguided. The townies should not leave the country folk alone, and let them get on with the job. The countryside establishment has built some nice houses and planted some fine trees but it must take the blame for a great deal that has gone wrong, including one of the worst records on wildlife conservation in the developed world.

More broadly, the existing order remains feudal and feudalism has had its day. The countryside must be part of our social democracy or it will always be an anachronism, a nostalgic and rather brutal theme park for rustic pursuits. It must serve the needs of the people as a whole, and other species.



Meacher: "new vision"

> 'We need to challenge the claim of the existing rural order, that they alone understand the countryside'

To begin with, the countryside — both its physical and social structure — depends absolutely on agriculture. Farming takes up the most space and is the greatest rural employer. If agriculture is wrong — and it is — then everything else is wrong. Our agricultural policy needs to be rethought from first principles. Britain's farming is geared on the one hand to the Common Agricultural Policy of the EC, and on the other to the aspirations of the supermarkets, wo contradictory ambitions prevail. The first is to make as much money as possible out of food (with the population eating as much meat as possible); and that "value-adding" must be maximised, meaning great weight given to processing and packaging.

The second ambition — much espoused by politicians — is that food should be cheap. This means that farming is geared to livestock, which is subject to factory farming to keep costs down. As we have seen, this has proved disastrous to public health and cruel to the animals.

The rural labour force, too, has been subject to the whims of market forces, with job losses and wages kept very low, adding to disaffection with the industry.

On grounds of nutrition, gastronomy, environment, and good economic sense, we need to restore the farm labour force, and be prepared to pay proper prices for well-produced and healthy food. Farmers, consumers and the environment would benefit. To do this, we need to challenge the claim of the existing rural order, that they alone understand the countryside: that they are its natural "stewards".

When the Romans left Britain, the country was home to bears, wolves, beavers, wild cattle (the magnificent aurochs), wild boars, and white-tailed eagles. All are now gone. Apart from seals, the largest native predator left to us is the fox; and the largest native of any kind is the red deer. Anything else remotely sharp in tooth, beak or claw has, at various times, been taken to the brink of extinction: wild cats, otters, pine martens, peregrines, harriers, kites, golden eagles, and a miscellany of owls. They have survived, usually, only in the remotest uplands.

These animals have been killed to make way for gamebirds such as pheasants, imported from Asia, which the gentry breeds to shoot after one kamikaze flight. If these people are stewards of the countryside, then bring on the Vandals.

When anyone suggests that the traditional brutalities should stop, the stewards proclaim that this would put thousands out of work: game-keepers, dog-handlers, and purveyors of ammunition. And so it would. Yet those rustic guardians showed scant regard for dockers or miners, when their livelihoods went by the board.

But there are better arguments. If agriculture was subject to better practice, then it would soak up the liberated labour force ten times over. A countryside that works for all the people and for the remaining animals and plants, would need to be better managed than it is, and so provide far more rewarding and useful work than raising pheasants and trapping weasels.

Of course, a countryside designed for everybody could not be a free-for-all. All pursuits are to some extent unsocial. Bird-spotters tread on plants, power-boats are noisy, ramblers look untidy and so on. We need manners, as all societies do, reinforced by laws where manners fail.

But at least we can establish the principle: that Britain's beautiful land should not belong by right to a few. The point of the countryside, apart from good farming, should surely be for people to enjoy it; to associate with wildlife without disrupting their habitats.

To succeed we need more subtle, green-based economics. We need excellent science — specifically ecology. We need a new morality, which extends to other species and we need a new aesthetic, which sees beauty in landscapes that are good for creatures other than man. The White Paper is due by Christmas; let's hope the Government at least shows that it understands what is entailed.

● *Colin Tudge is a visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Philosophy of the London School of Economics.*



DES JENSON

Antonio Berardi has had a run of bad luck in his four-year career, but he is taking it in his stride. "I feel it is all over, all in the past. Now I am working on a new collection"

Fashion is the victim

Joanna Pitman talks to the latest target in an extraordinary crime wave

Consider this for a moment. You are an experienced British burglar looking for a new niche market in an overcrowded business. You've done modern jewellery, Tamagochis and computer software. So, what now?

The answer is designer clothes, worth vast sums on the counterfeit market. At least one gang is already pioneering this new line, targeting young British designers and getting away with hundreds of thousands of pounds in designer dress, jacket, suit and bikini samples originally destined to be worn by Kate Moss and friends on the catwalk.

A couple of weeks ago, 29-year-old Antonio Berardi, who dresses such luminaries as Kylie Minogue and Bianca Jagger, had his entire autumn and winter collection stolen on the steps of his St Martin's Lane office. A notional figure of £500,000 has been put on the retail value, but the street value is estimated at nearer £3 million. Police have still not traced the collection.

On the same day Effi Samara, another young designer, lost her entire stock, worth £50,000, from her new Conduit Street shop in just three minutes. Three days later Liza Bruce, the New York-born designer, lost her complete 1998 collection from her new Pont Street shop when a man smashed down the glass door and scooped everything off the rails. A few hours later the Caroline Charles shop in Beauchamp Place had £31,000 worth of couture goods stolen.

Scotland Yard is unable to explain the thefts. "The Lisa Bruce, Effi Samara and Caroline Charles cases are all burglaries where someone entered premises by force," says Detective Inspector Johnstone of Kensington Police Station. "Burglaries of that sort are not unusual in this part of London but the target is. Designer clothes have a very high market value and it is possible these cases are linked and a gang has targeted expensive clothes shops.

"There are no 'usual suspects'. But these clothes can be shifted easily — sold in markets, pubs and stalls around the country. They'll probably be sold on quickly, because stuff like this burns a hole in your pocket. The longer you keep it, the harder it is to get rid of."

What baffles the Inspector is that, if the thieves were after stock for copying, why would they take an entire collection in different sizes?

He sees the Berardi case as slightly different "because the stock was taken on the street by a gang in broad daylight waiting for a delivery. Fashion houses are extremely secretive about their collections and their offices are in buildings that are not obvious to the outsider. These men must have known exactly what they were after and where to wait. I'm no expert on fashion but I've learned a lot in the last couple of weeks. My eyes were popping out at the prices."

Although there is no apparent link between the robberies, Liza Bruce has her own theories. "The four collections taken are so different and so extensive that it seems unlikely they would be destined for copying. People can browse in a shop and buy or take one or two different samples for that ... Maybe someone wants me not to have a show next season."

Antonio Berardi has suffered perhaps the greatest damage. He is among the four or five players in the British women's fashion game whose new collections those in the know would most covet. His collection was to have been photographed for American *Vogue*, *Elle* and a range of British monthlies. The loss of press coverage is far greater, he says, than the actual value of the clothes. But, for a man with no collection and pages of *Vogue* to fill, he is impressively calm, even though he believes the police first thought he was behind the crime. Certainly such a theft, as long as there are copies, would make good pre-release publicity.

But Berardi, a relative novice in the business, would be unlikely to have pulled off such an audacious stunt. "There have been lots of theories, of course, concerning rivals and blackmarket copying; even the Mafia has been mentioned, which is ridiculous [Berardi is the son of a big operator in the Sicilian ice-cream world] but I have just had to put it behind me. The police have been very sympathetic and thorough, and maybe they will solve the mystery, but in the meantime I am getting on with my next collection."

Then he adds: "Maybe others are pleased to see me lose my collection, but I try to stay out of the back-stabbing and rivalries, and I don't really care what other designers think about it all. I do wonder, though, how someone would be able to sell my stuff without having it recognised."

Berardi's clothes are certainly distinctive. The stolen collection included a jacket made of sheets of crystal beading worth £42,000 and intricate jackets. Pity any poor Hong Kong sweatshop seamstresses trying to reproduce that.

Berardi has risen to fashion fame in just four years. He remembers that 250 people came to his St Martin's graduate show, and he remembers especially their applause. He believes the turnout and the plaudits were because his work was different. "It wasn't bin-liners and anti-establishment, it was beautifully made with embroidered linings and wonderful detail.

"I was brought up in a Lincolnshire village where there was no real fashion, but my mother and my sisters were always proud of their looks and dressed well. They gave me my love of fashion."



CHRIS MOORE

Part of Berardi's autumn collection, stolen two weeks ago. He describes his clothes as "beautifully made"

Berardi is not typical of the fashion-designer species, being neither flamboyant nor loud, but there is a fawn-like quality about him, a softness, that is emphasised by his large dark eyes and thick black eyebrows.

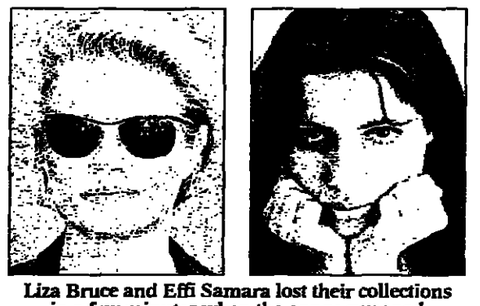
He says he is shy and rather boring. He lives with his sister and seldom goes out alone for fear of meeting a young woman stalker who has dogged his life for two years.

He has certainly had his fair share of bad luck in his short career. Two years ago he attended a *Sky* magazine awards ceremony where he won first prize — and five minutes later found that it and six of his samples had been stolen. Then, at last year's British Fashion Awards, he was passed over for the title of New Generation Designer of the Year because the wrong name was placed in the presenter's envelope.

For his latest misfortune, Anna Wintour, Editor of American *Vogue*, and other powerful forces in the fashion world have sent cards offering sympathy and support.

"I am grateful to them and I am getting on with my next collection," Berardi says. "I feel it is all over. All in the past now." For the son of a hot-blooded Sicilian, he has acquired a very British sang-froid.

THE DESIGNER GANG **TARGETS**



Liza Bruce and Effi Samara lost their collections in a few minutes when the gangs swooped

ALAIN DE BOTTON

How Proust can change YOUR LIFE

PICADOR Now in paperback

'Dazzling' John Updike

'So charming, amusing and sensible that it may even itself change your life'
Daily Telegraph

'Seriously cheeky, cheekily serious'
Julian Barnes



SHOPPING

■ **Daileys Architectural Antiques** made its name selling reclaimed baths and fireplaces. Now it stocks garden antiques too: faded stripey deckchairs and an original bathing tent, plus folding French tables, sundials, tools and watering cans. All at the Engine Shed, Ashburton Industrial Estate, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire (01989 563015).

■ **Crabtree & Evelyn's** new essential oils Aromathology range marks a subtle shift in its image: green glass bottles and shiny aluminium are elbowing out the pretty labels. Look out for stress busters such as Pulse Point Balm (£7.50) or the Office Survival Kit (£20), including cedar and grapefruit smelling salts, from May 1. Call 0171-603 1611 for nearest branch.



The Iron Bed Co: cool comfort

■ The **Iron Bed Company's** catalogue, just launched, has treats such as velvet lavender bags and furry hot-water bottle covers, as well as wonderful beds, all available by post. Catalogue from 01243 778999.

■ **Sheva Fruitman's** photographic exhibition will have you reaching for your wallet. Her haunting flower and fruit platinum prints start at £200. For six weeks at the Special Photographers Company, 21 Kensington Park Road, London W11 (0171-221 3489).

■ UPDATES: The **Decorative Antiques and Textiles Fair** has French painted furniture, antique linens and botanical prints all gathered into one marquee. From April 21-26 at Battersea Park, admission £6 (0171-624 5173).

JUDITH WILSON

East meets West on the cutting edge

my favourite shop



John Eskenazi's gallery is a fertile source of inspiration

For someone who cites fearlessness as one of the key secrets of her success as an interior designer, Kelly Hoppen seems surprisingly edgy. Her cat, Tigger, has just disgraced himself by knocking over a favourite and extremely valuable Khmer head at her home in Chelsea, sending the 11th-century Cambodian stone sculpture crashing to the floor.

So it is with understandable anxiety that she watches as some rather similar but even pricier pieces in John Eskenazi's Bond Street gallery are hastily rearranged in preparation for our shoot.

"You're making me very nervous," she mutters as the gallery assistant Clair Whiteman manoeuvres a slim pedestal on which a 1,000-year-old head of Chamunda, the Hindu goddess of destruction, seems rather precariously poised.

The antique Eastern art in which Eskenazi specialises is a fertile source of inspiration for South African-born Hoppen, whose trademark style is reflected in her recently published book *East Meets West*.

"You see the Eastern influence everywhere now, in fashion as well as design, but it is something I have been into since I started in this business more than 21 years ago," says the 37-year-old, who has recently added Chris Evans and Elaine Page to her list of celebrity clients, which includes aristocracy as well as Hollywood stars. Much of her design philosophy is based on the idea that opposites attract. "By bringing something modern into an old room you can give it an edge. I also like to mix contrasting fabrics and textures, maybe putting an incredible £200-a-metre Fortuny fabric with something like calico or ticking or even upholstery scrim."

Enthusing over the pieces that make up the minimalist display in Eskenazi's discreet second-floor gallery, which includes Buddhist and Hindu sculptures, Japanese screens and rare textiles from China, she adds: "I also think that the Eastern influence is very peaceful and harmonious. There is something very calming about it, an important factor in my designs. It's not just the look I'm interested in. I also try to create a feel-good factor. Mine is not such a done-up style that you walk into a room and feel you cannot sit down."

Although Hoppen is sympathetic to the ideas of Feng Shui, she believes that much of it comes from feeling when a room is right. "I don't place water on a dish to bring wealth, but I seem to know instinctively what is right. Clients have often told me that they came to me because they'd been to a house that I'd done and it felt good."

Hoppen doesn't bat an eyelid at Eskenazi's price tags, few of which seem under £10,000 — one 2nd-3rd century Buddhist stone frieze that particularly catches her eye is a breathtaking £195,000.

"If you want a beautiful home with beautiful art it does cost money," she shrugs. "The pieces in Eskenazi are obviously very expensive but they are also exceptional. I can't afford to spend as much there as some of my clients, so I save up and maybe buy one amazing piece a year, like the Khmer head."

Her Chelsea flat is, naturally, a tasteful mix of Eastern and Western artefacts and furnishings. The style suits her merchant banker husband, Ed, too; he used to work in Hong Kong and dealt in Chinese art.



CHRISTOPHER BARKER

Kelly Hoppen, left, with gallery assistant Clair Whiteman. "The Eastern influence is very peaceful and harmonious"

Despite having little time to herself — as well as running her business, and launching a new range of home accessories, she is mother to a 15-year-old daughter and two stepdaughters — she still finds time to entertain. For her husband's 50th birthday, she laid on a take-away Indian meal for which she redesigned her dining room, seating guests on cushions around a 10ft x 6ft Indian coffee table. She was encouraged to photograph it, which was the start of her latest book, *Table Chic*.

Hoppen was only 16 when she was given her first commission by a friend of her stepfather. "It was nightmare," she recalls. "The client was drunk; so were the builders. But he was very pleased with the result. After that I did a job for the racing driver Guy Edwards. He put me in touch with Keke Rosberg, who was world champion, and it went from there."

It seems extraordinary that anybody that young should have the style and confidence to carry it off. She merely shrugs. "I look at my daughter and it reminds me that at that age you have no fear. That's vital. You must have total confidence in your own taste."

Although she is known as much for her fiery side as her calming designs, she denies that she is temperamental. "I'm a Leo — driven but vulnerable. Honestly, I'm a real softie inside," she insists. "But in this business you have to learn to be tough. I want everything to be perfect, and if people don't deliver, that's when you see the other side."

Her latest venture is a product and fabric range — "so that people can have the style without having to have me". And her long-term ambition? To have a Conran-style emporium. "I will do it some day," she says with steely determination. "Oh yes, I will get very, very big."

MICHAEL CABLE

● *John Eskenazi, 15 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-409 3001). Open: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm.* Table Chic *is published by Collins & Brown (£19.99).*

GADGETS

THE Philishave Cool Skin HQ 5620 is an amphibious electric razor promising convenience and a close shave.

Disposable sachets of moisturising emulsion slot into the back of the three-head rechargeable razor. Depress a button during shaving to release the emulsion and give a closer shave. Afterwards the emulsion can be rubbed into the skin or washed away; the razor must be rinsed.

I needed plenty of emulsion to get impressive results, with the exception of the neck area, which was a disaster. The razor is almost as much as a palaver as a wet shave.

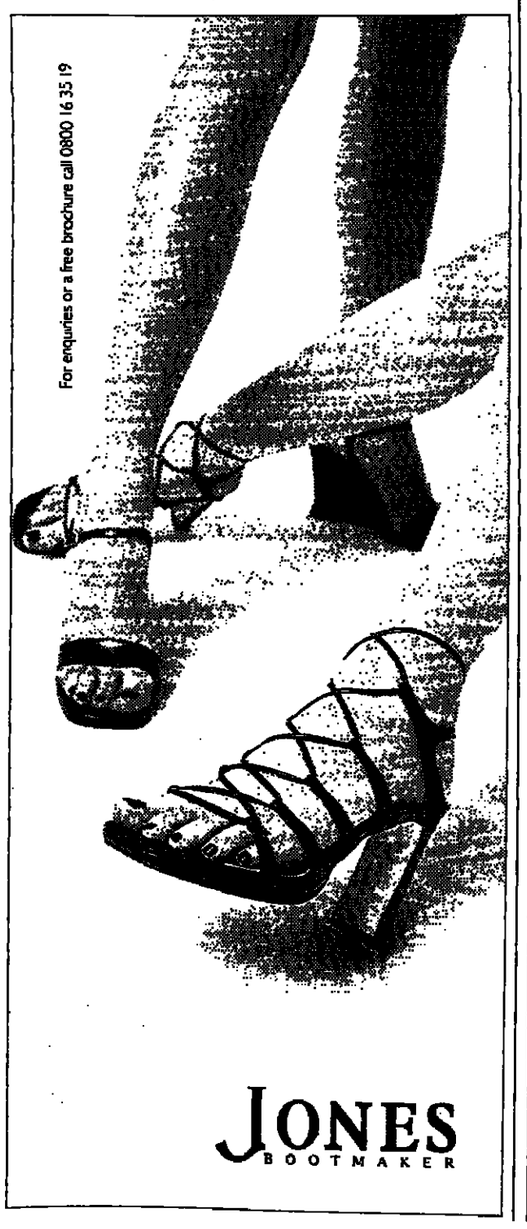
My current bathroom favourite is the Tongue Scraper; strips of bendy flat plastic you scrape down the tongue to clear any build-up of bacterial gunk on the surface. Found in American drug stores (50p for two), in the UK I've only spotted metal versions. Keep that hand steady.



In search of a close shave

● *Philishave Cool Skin HQ 5620, £99.99. Pack of five sachets, £3.99. Metal Tongue Scraper, £7.99 plus p&p, from Home Fee (0990 748494).*

For enquiries or a free brochure call 0800 16 35 19



JONES
BOOTMAKER

Some pressing matters

Photographs by Des Jenson

IRONS

Despite being hot, steamy and dangerous, ironing is by no means fun. It is an unavoidable chore that plagues everyone. But at least with the latest steam boosters, easy-glide soleplates and state-of-the-art styling, ironing is easier and quicker than ever.

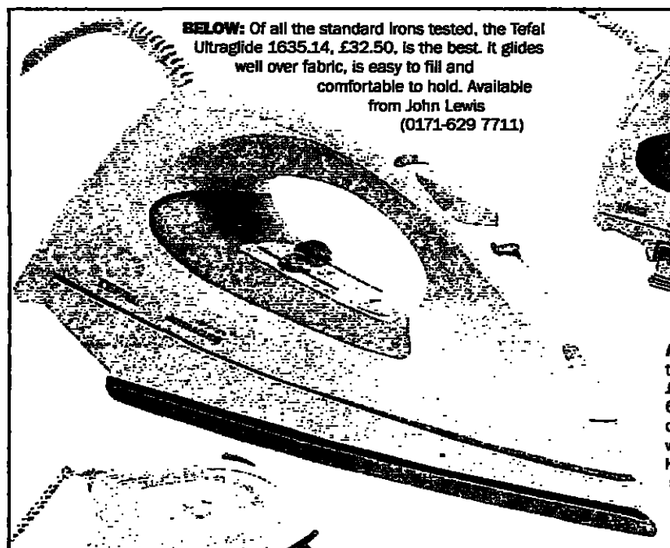
The Tefal Ultraglide has a ceramic soleplate which makes short work of ironing heavy fabrics like cotton and wool, as it eliminates dragging. For those whose load is heavy, a steam generator iron like the Domena Booster 10 or the Delonghi Stiromeglio Press VVT110 is worth investing in. Although they are more expensive than standard irons, they offer a more powerful steam jet and a larger water tank.

Carmella Lewszuk, buyer for home electricals at Harrods, says that a good-quality, standard iron will cost about £50 but should last for five years or more if well maintained. Hard water is the iron's greatest enemy, according to Lewszuk, as it can cause a large build-up of scale, which clogs the steam holes and reduces effectiveness. "New irons often come with a self-cleaning-mechanism," she says.

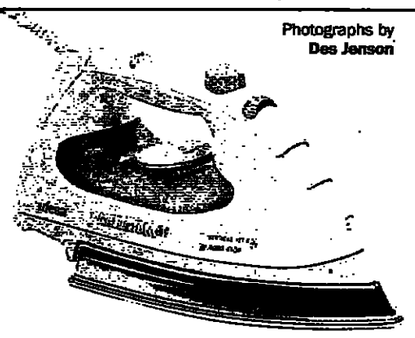
Otherwise, buy descaling liquid and use it once a month or swap tap water for distilled water and eliminate the problem." Dirty soleplates can be rectified with a Wenko Iron Cleaning stick, £2.75, available from John Lewis (0171-629 7711).

A good ironing board is also worth investing in. The ideal board has a metal mesh backing as it allows steam to pass through and ensures the foam top stays dry.

MARY ANN PERCY

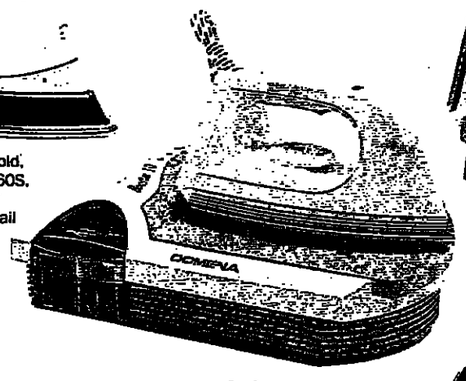


BELOW: Of all the standard irons tested, the Tefal Ultraglide 1635.14, £32.50, is the best. It glides well over fabric, is easy to fill and comfortable to hold. Available from John Lewis (0171-629 7711)



BELOW: The Booster 10 iron, £169.99, is bulky because of its large water tank but this allows for more steam than a conventional iron. It is fairly noisy, but is light and glides over fabric easily. From Domena (01444 454581)

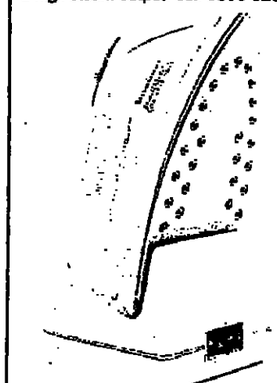




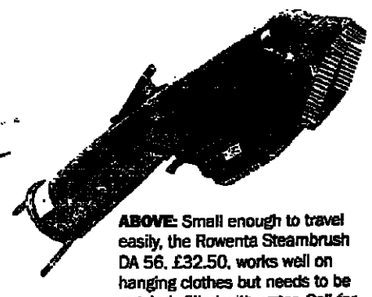
ABOVE: Although easy to hold, the Milenium iron PV4321 60S, £39.99, from Ufesa (01977 603222, 01909 774337 mail order), is difficult to fill with water and heavy. However, its vertical jet of steam works well on a creased, hanging garment



ABOVE: If your washing load is heavy, this lightweight Delonghi Stiromeglio Press is worth investing in at £129.99. Gets hot quickly and has a high steam output. Call 0800 626 496



ABOVE: The Moulinex Optimate Cordless Duo iron X65, £39.95, makes ironing seem less cumbersome because of its manoeuvreability. It has clear controls and is easy to fill. From Harrods (0171-730 1234)

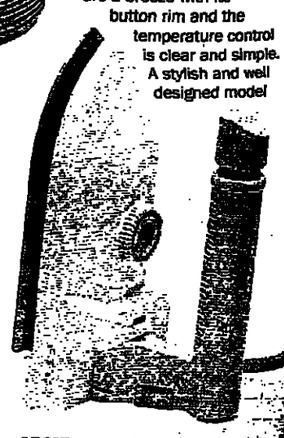


ABOVE: Small enough to travel easily, the Rowenta Steambrush DA 56, £32.50, works well on hanging clothes but needs to be regularly filled with water. Call for stockists (01604 760291)



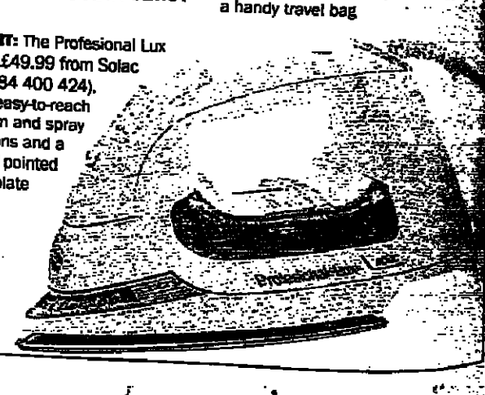
ABOVE: The Caresse FE701, £44.99 from Polti (0800 132509), is sturdy but tricky to fill with water and leaks a lot. Rather than gliding across fabric, the iron needs to be dragged, which does not make for pleasurable ironing

ABOVE: The Delphino DE143 iron, £32.99, from Rowenta (01604 760291) comes in translucent blue. Awkward tucks and pleats are a breeze with its button rim and the temperature control is clear and simple. A stylish and well designed model



ABOVE: Made for jetsetters, the Travel Iron 4831, £14.99, from Pifco (0161-947 3000) folds into a handy travel bag

RIGHT: The Profesional Lux iron, £49.99 from Solac (01484 400 424), has easy-to-reach steam and spray buttons and a good pointed soleplate



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Trainers pump up the footsie index

When Fred Perry took to the green grass of Wimbledon in the Thirties sporting Dunlop's latest Green Flash plimsolls, he was no fashion icon. Yet he was possibly the first sportsman to endorse footwear that is today being worn by presidents and priests alike: trainers.

In the past ten years, sales of sports footwear have nearly doubled in Britain, from £550 million in 1988 to £990 million in 1998, and account for 18 per cent of the shoe market — that is about one in five pairs.

In America (where Nike sales amount to $20 per person a year), sales have halved in the past two years: analysts suggest this is because of the increased influence of designer labels over jeans and sweatshirts. But in Britain, trainer sales are booming, with specialist brands selling in both country and city shops.

This isn't because we have all gone sports mad. According to Adrian Clark, fashion director of *Attitude* magazine, British buyers are far more aware of street fashion than Americans — which means that lots more of us want the latest trainer. "You only have to look at the way Americans wear trainers at lunchtime, with suits," he says. "They are not wearing them as a fashion statement; they are wearing them to walk in, so don't need to change them so frequently."

Ghassan Hodeib, of Offspring, the celebrity trainer shop in London's Covent Garden, says that true trainer fans constantly update their footwear. Recent customers include Sharleen from Texas (who buys both classic shapes and wild styles); Jean Paul Gaultier and Giorgio Armani (who both bought Camper trainer-shoes); Alexander McQueen (white and orange Adidas Adios models); Eric Clapton (the latest New Balance versions) and Zoë Ball (almost everything).

There is much rivalry among trainer shops to attract celebrities: J.D Sports, for example, is supported by the Gallagher brothers, because of its connections with Man City; the Spice Girls frequent Buffalo for platform trainers.

Unlike five years ago, when almost all trainers were made by mainstream companies, today's models are varied and often custom-made. Offspring's range of Stride shoes, for example, was specially ordered in bright colours; Dolce & Gabbana's summer menswear collection included trainers in subdued colours; Patrick Cox's winter trainers were in grey flannel to complement his suiting.

"Trainers are not about club culture any more, but about having shoes that you enjoy wearing for their comfort and their looks," says Adrian Clark. "The days of lumpy heels and sporty models have gone; today's models are sleek creations that can be worn with almost anything."

Although trainers were seen on every catwalk for the spring/summer shows, owning a pair will not necessarily make you one of the fashion crowd. "Fashion is all about the individual, so it depends on the other things that the person is wearing," Hodeib says. "For example, a cool woman might wear Nike Air Max with a suit and get into a club, whereas a suburban girl in boring jeans wouldn't."

He says that some brands sell out almost instantly. Acupuncture and Stride, Nike's Terra Humara, Reebok's DMX2000 (with doughnut-like padding on the soles) and Solomon's hiking trainers are popular with the more grown-up buyer, he adds. Adidas and Puma styles are for those who want a classic retro look.

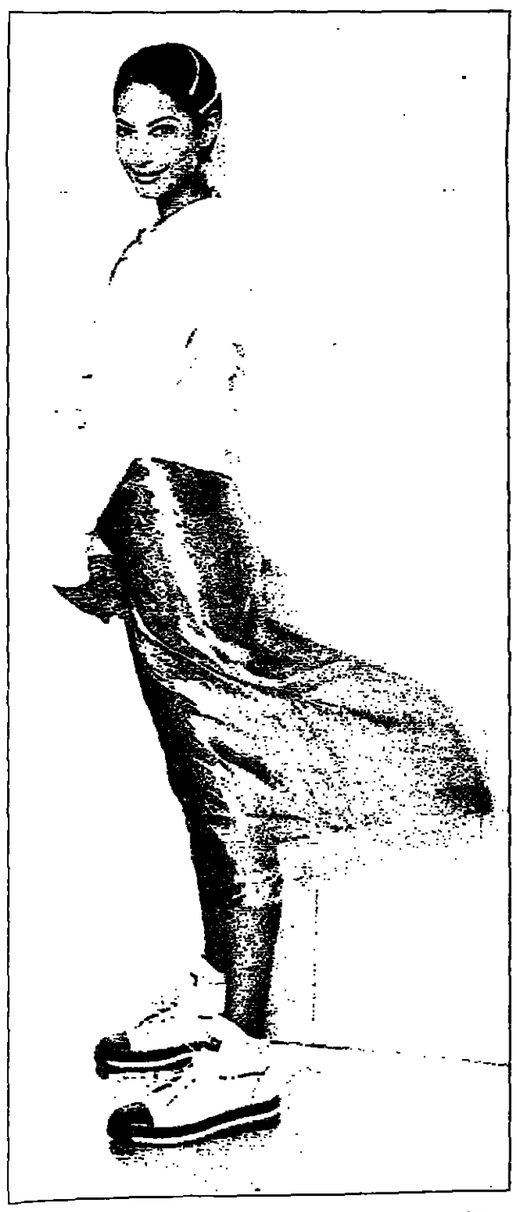
It is almost impossible to keep up with sports fashion, because there are four collections a year. But despite their variability, one thing is certain: trainers are here to stay. And when Adidas launches its latest range, which follow foot contours, or Nike its microchip sensor-laden versions, I will be the first to have them. And it won't just be for use on the sports field.

LISA GRAINGER

MAIN PHOTOGRAPHS: TRANSWORLD/SCOPE



Trainers not only help athletes feel like they have wings on their feet; today a third of sales are for off-field use. Fans will search the world for distinctive looks: this gold pair cost only £10 at a French supermarket



Fashion designers such as Dolce & Gabbana are now creating their own footwear to complement the season's collection



Although in America sales of trainers have fallen by 50 per cent in the past two years, in Britain they are an essential part of casual weekend wear and account for about one in five pairs of shoes sold

SIX OF A KIND



A clubby trainer for super trendies is the red and cream leather version, £69.99, Diesel, 43 Earlham Street, WC1 (0171-833 2255)



For everyday casual wear: Vans camel suede trainer, £60, from Schuh and Shellys branches nationwide (0181-877 9907)



For music/dance-lovers, by Goldie: black and yellow Royal Headz DLX trainers, £90, Offspring (inquiries: 0181-838 4447)



Tough yet trendy walking trainer for those who mix country and city living, £60, O'Neill, 9-15 Neal Street, WC2 (0191-419 1777)



Sporty chic: Adidas leather shell-top trainer, £50, all good sports stores (0161-419 2500)



Fitness trainer in white leather with orange trim, £49.99, Fila, Empire (0800 220230)

Photography by **Anna Stevenson.** Styling by **Amandip Uppal**









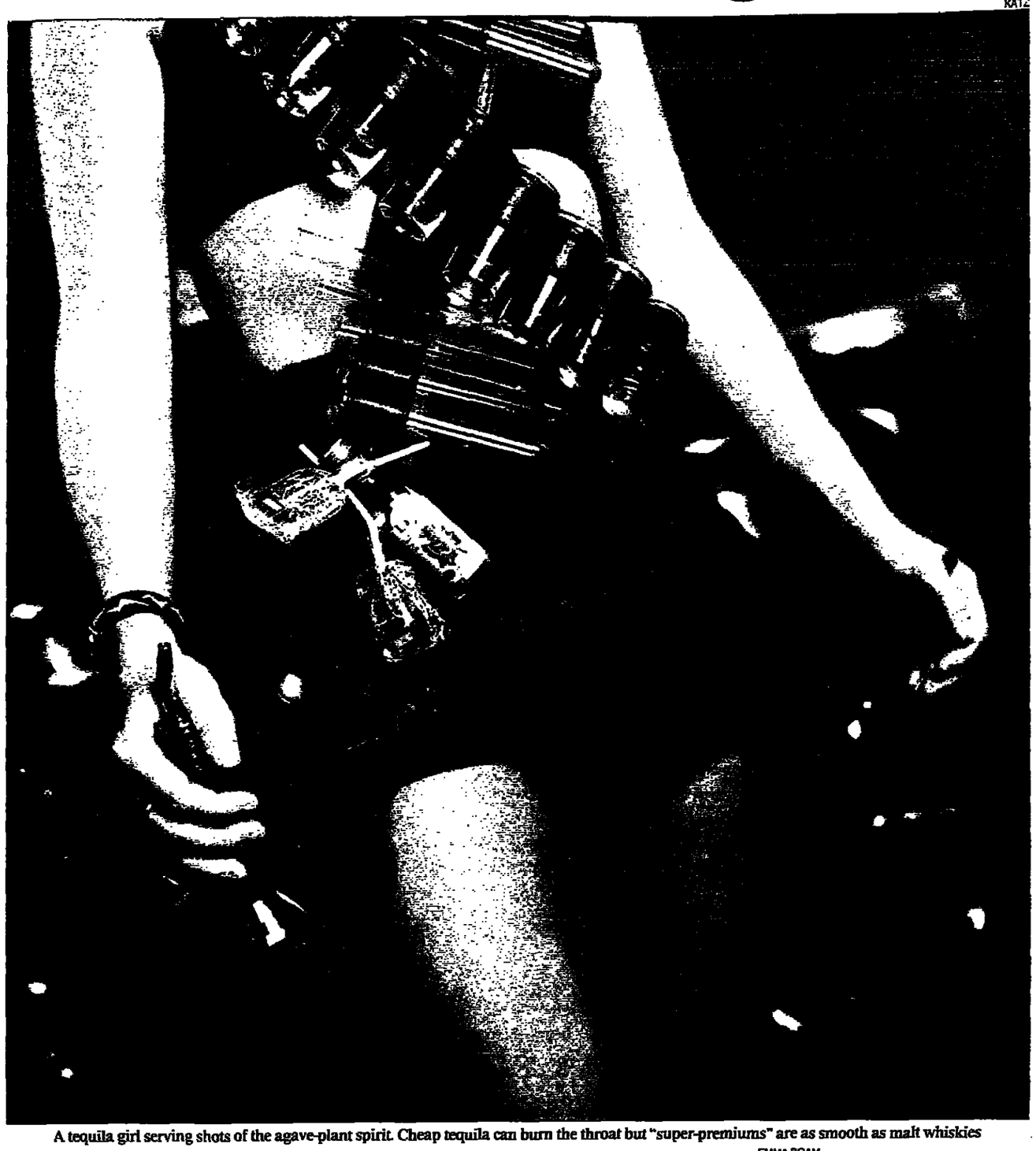
Some feat: the once humble trainers now get star billing in celebrity circles. Among the devotees are, left to right, Patsy Kensit, All Saints, Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell

Firewater of the gods

Karina Mantavia

on the resurgence of an Aztec spirit previously seen as a tipple for madmen

KATZ



A tequila girl serving shots of the agave-plant spirit. Cheap tequila can burn the throat but "super-premiums" are as smooth as malt whiskies

The Aztecs believed that tequila was a gift from the gods, revealed when a bolt of lightning blasted open the bountiful agave plant to expose a milky alcoholic pulp.

Divine origins did not stop the synapse-detonating gift from acquiring a low-life reputation: "It's a mad drink," says one 36-year-old former drinker, shaking his head. "It's a mad drink for mad people. And it makes you mad."

William Burroughs once drank it for eight hours, vomiting green bile every ten minutes, at which point his doctor told him: "One more bottle of this and you're dead."

But insanity is now yielding to stylishness as fashion-conscious Americans discover slick new ways of consuming the drink so long associated with rebellion and excess. John MacDonald of New York's Merc Bar, a pioneer of the martini renaissance, did some research in Mexico, substituting tequilas for vodka in popular cocktails — and he returned to the Big Apple with a new drinking concept.

And the moment was right. Across America affluent baby-boomers, bored with traditional spirits, were looking for a drink with class — and a trend was born. Now the Ritz Carlton hotel in Cancún, Mexico, is something of a magnet for American aficionados heading south; it hosts tequila tastings where converted cognac drinkers swirl and sniff it out of brandy balloons. Restaurants and hotels from Santa Monica to Arizona have caught on, hosting tequila dinners to introduce the drink's food-friendliness.

So successfully, in fact, that tequila sales are climbing while other spirits are generally in decline. Simon Soothill, senior brand manager at tequila-maker Cuervo, attributes the boom to "boutique" tequilas: "The American drinker is extremely knowledgeable about spirits, far more likely to drink cocktails, and far more likely to ask for a specific brand," he explains. "The revival is being driven by the 'super-premiums' which carry the same cachet as malt whiskies."

Super-premiums are aged — and often expensively packaged — tequilas whose flavours depend on the kind of wood used to age them. Super-premium drinkers can choose from such delights as Cuervo Reserva de la Familia, Gran Centenario, Patron, Herradura, Don Julio and El Tesoro de Don Felipe.

Britain is not lagging in the tequila stakes: consumption has risen by 15 per cent in each of the past two years. British enthusiasm for tequila is accelerating in the style bars in London, Leeds and Manchester. And the tequila slammer is enjoying a revival in Glasgow.

Blanca Anguiana, a Mexican-born British resident, who is inundated with requests for top-quality tequila every time she takes a trip home, says: "In Mexico, it's a very gentle drink and I would say half of the time it is drunk neat. I can't tell you at what age I first had it — my mother would kill me. But as a Mexican I've always drunk it. The point of tequila is not to get smashed — you only do that if you're an alcoholic."

Danny Smith, head barman at London's 15-year-old Café Pacifico, who is planning to go to Mexico to research the rarer tequilas, has noticed a change in attitude: "People are coming in and asking for specific brands or just asking to be educated about them. Ten years ago, people just wanted shooters, now it's finally getting the respect it deserves."

Navajo Joe's bar, which recently opened in London's Covent Garden, stocks 149 tequilas — the largest selection in Europe. Richard Elvis, a barman there, says: "There are higher standards all round — in food and in drink. It's no longer about nachos and slammers. Tequila used to be the least understood drink."

The Chelsea restaurant Albero y Grana has even formed a tequila committee of media and gastronomic bigshots who, after being educated in the mysteries of tequila by Cairbry Hill, a cocktail barman, will then host their own tequila evenings.

I went along to sample the super-premiums and my head and my palate were pleasantly surprised. Herradura Supreme, at £22 a shot, tastes of oranges and smells of woodsmoke. Don Julio, made by Tres Magueyes, has the peppery flavour of an aged tequila and is claimed to be the current favourite for the connoisseurs of Mexico.

Cairbry Hill's cocktail list covers the spectrum from the classic margarita to a Bloody Maria, Tequila Sour, a Tequila Cosmopolitan, renamed a Tequini, and a Chocolate Tequini made with tequila, white crème de cacao and the tiniest hint of crème de menthe. It is a long way from the heavenly firewater of Aztec legend.

EMMA BOAM



Karina Mantavia, centre, a formerly sober journalist, tries tequila cocktails in Chelsea's Albero y Grana restaurant

THE HISTORY

■ Murals around the great pyramid of Cholula, near Mexico City, depict the Aztecs enjoying some kind of pulque or fermented fruit juice with sincere abandon as far back as 200AD. The Spanish conquistadors developed this into what we today know as tequila, the first distilled spirit on the American continent. The drink is named after a small hillside town north of Guadalajara, whose origins can be traced back to a settlement by a tribe called Tiquilas. In 1758, King Ferdinand VI of Spain granted land to Don José Antonio de Cuervo, a Spanish nobleman who went on to form Tequila Cuervo, the world's first commercial producer of tequila.

Drink



Jane MacQuitty

Despite the BBC (blasted British climate), English wine is finally developing its own distinctive style

Fly the flag of St George this Thursday with a fine, fresh, floral English wine. I continue to be amazed at the excellent quality of the 1995 vintage here with its light, white, fragrant, grapey, crisply acidic style. Even more surprising is its ability to grow old gracefully. I have also tasted a few 1996s, widely acknowleged to be one of the less successful years beset by mildew from damp, humid days and insufficient sunshine. But again I was astonished by its refreshing, spritzy drinkability.

It has taken the English and Welsh wine industry more than 50 years to grow up but the wait has been worth it. We now have 400-odd vineyards in England and Wales, with about 2,500 acres of vines producing an average of 2 million litres annually.

In the early days there were so few vineyards that progress was slow. English vignerons relied (not always sensibly) on the British bulldog spirit to produce wine from north-facing frost-pocket vineyards attacked by predators as diverse as birds and badgers.



By 1967 there were still only 25 vineyards in the south of England and very few elsewhere. But slowly, throughout the 1970s and 1980s, English wine quality began to improve as the basics of good viticulture began to be understood, along with the need for open, south-facing, sunny, well drained slopes, situated inland away from damaging salty sea breezes. Most English vineyards will continue to be a compromise, though.

If England's grape growers took longer than necessary to acquire vital 1990s viticultural skills, they are still struggling with inadequate technical knowledge. It has taken imported wine makers like the Australian-trained John Worontschak, from the Harvest Wine Group based at Thames Valley Vineyard in Berkshire, to show us the way. This lack of proper winemaking skills continues to dog the industry. Few faulty English wines now achieve national distribution, but dull, plastic-scented bottles continue to slip through the national net (for example, the 1996 Leeford Vineyard Lightly Oaked bottle on sale at Marks & Spencer for £4.99).

One hazard English and Welsh grape growers cannot escape is the BBC, or "blasted British climate". The effects of global warming may have encouraged longer, hotter summers but frost, hail and rain continue to ruin our annual grape crop. Britain is on the northern extreme of Europe's cool-climate viticultural zone. Late spring frosts and wet summers savagely reduce crops most years. And although southern England has longer hours of daylight than the Continent, long Indian summers, when our grapes can benefit from this climatic boost, are rare.

On the plus side has been the emergence of a genuine English wine style. Gone are the ersatz, sweet, Germanic imitations and in their place is a fresher, drier, more delicately floral style. Germany's müller thurgau grape is the most common variety here, followed by seyval blanc, the French hybrid, and another two German varieties, reichensteiner and schönburger. A keenly priced example of an English blend dominated by the bacchus grape is the 1995 Yellowhammer, a light, floral, zesty bottle at £3.49 from Oddbins. One step up in quality and intensity of flavour is the 1995 Thames Valley Regatta, a multi-grape blend on sale at Oddbins for £4.49 and Tesco at £5.49, whose spicy, flinty, yet still floral style I enjoyed.

Chapel Down, based at Tenterden in Kent, is also acquiring a reputation for its well executed range made by David Cowderoy, another Australian-trained winemaker. Skip the basic Summerhill White and plump for the seyval blanc-based Summerhill Oaked instead. This is Waitrose's Wine of the Month for April and is a £3.99 clean, oaky, peachy wonder. Tesco and the Co-Op also stock it for the same price.

All English wines tend to make good spring-into-summer aperitifs, and the intensely aromatic bacchus grape is this in a nutshell. The best of this bunch was the 1995 Chiddingstone Bacchus Dry whose aromatic aniseed and barley-sugar scent is worth experiencing, but you will have to go to Browns Hotel, London W1, to taste it (£4 a glass) or buy it for £5.09 a bottle direct from the vineyard (01892 871400). The top 1996 in this tasting was the elegant, dry, spritzy green 1996 Three Choirs Estate Premium (Thresher Group, Sainsbury's and Morrisons, £3.99), a hotchpotch of England's most widely planted grapes.

Here's to St George.

NEXT WEEK:
Spring rieslings.

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

Black Velvet

THE warblings of Alannah Myles, the Canadian chanteuse, may have hammered the final nail in the coffin of Black Velvet. Her catchy ditty of that title reached No 2 in the hit parade of March 1990.

The simple, velvety-smooth champagne cocktail of the same name, however, dates from 1861, and the outpouring of national grief for Prince Albert. 'Twas Tennyson who then supplied the song-sheet, not Elton, and the barmen at Brooks's decided that even the party girl of the day should follow the sovereign's lead and be cloaked in black.

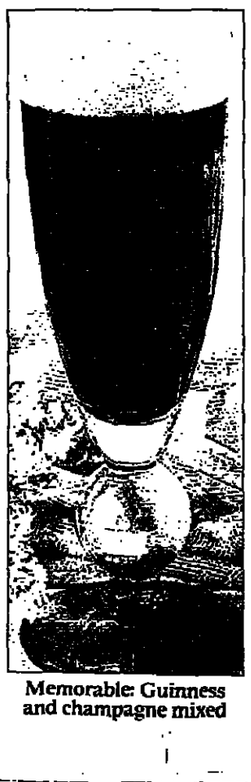
The unlikely half-and-half combo of sweet champagne and stout proves enduringly popular. Bismarck is known to have been a dedicated slurper: the founder of the second Reich famously recommended every man should drink 5,000 bottles of French fizz before he died. As to whether he chose to moderate the greater portion of this in partnership with Guinness after the demise of "poor Albert", history does not record.

It has endured, too, at the French House in Soho, so named because the Free French troops took to it during the Second World War. Young advertising types can still be seen today requesting the mix, although this may, in part, be because the French House serves Guinness only in halves.

Briefly resurrected for 1995s VE memorial knees-up, this silky temptress of a drink has now largely slipped from the charts. This is a shame. Like heavy champagne, with a creamy, smooth aftertaste, a Black Velvet provides delightful accompaniment to *fruits de mer*, and should be perfectly in tune with the current crop of "Oirish" bars and the like.

It is a bit late for a revival on the tailcoats of the people's Princess, but this year's unveiling of the newly restored Albert Memorial might prompt a re-call. I suspect, however, that the induced memory of Ms Myles's belly-aching may prove too much to stomach.

KATE STRONACH



Memorable: Guinness and champagne mixed

HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

I USED to think that smoked haddock was all the same. If you went by supermarket packaging that was certainly the case. Often it is a fish that is depressingly uniform in looks, smell and taste. But two years ago, after an early-morning visit to Billingsgate fish market, where one of London's last great fishmongers, Mr Lewsey, gave me a carrier bag of various smoked fish, I discovered that I was somewhat ignorant. (Anyone who has the remotest interest in food should pay this wonderful site a visit).

One real gem stood out in the haul — it is known as a "cutlet" but is, in fact, a thin fillet that has a slightly rubbery texture and a very pale yellow smoke. Too eager to wait for my return to the kitchen on that morning, I tore off a piece of flesh on the way back and munched away. It was superb, with a light, delicate flavour. But what also struck me was that there is no need to apply any heat to this sweet-flavoured delicacy. It can be eaten raw — something that one would be nervous of recommending with the average haul of fish from most supermarkets. So where is the cheat, you ask?



This week's is perhaps more of a "how to get a starter on the table, fast" variety.

The smoked haddock cutlets should be ordered in advance from the fishmonger. They weigh about four to six ounces each, but if your fishmonger is unable to get them, buy a thick fillet of smoked haddock and slice it for this dish as you would for smoked salmon. (A lot of smoked haddock is sold having been previously frozen — you must specify fresh for this dish). This is a variation on ceviche, with an oriental twist.

RAW SMOKED HADDOCK

Serves four

Take two smoked haddock. Place them in a shallow bowl and set aside.

In a separate bowl, combine the juice of two limes, 50ml of Thai fish sauce *(Nam Pla)*, quarter of a clove of chopped garlic, a pinch of caster sugar, half a small red chilli finely chopped (making sure to leave out the seeds), and a tablespoon of chopped, fresh coriander leaves. Add this dressing to the haddock and mix well and store in the fridge for a minimum of ten minutes.

To serve, heap in a little pile on four plates and garnish with sliced spring onions.

If the idea of eating raw fish doesn't appeal to you or your friends, a good alternative is to stir-fry the mix and serve over steamed rice (the above quantity would serve only two for this method). Either way, you'll have a first-class, and none too time-consuming, starter.

● *The author is the head chef at Harvey Nichols's fifth-floor restaurant in Knightsbridge.*

STAR BUYS

1996 Maître d'Estournel, Bordeaux Blanc, Oddbins, £5.99

Jean Guillaume Prats, like his father Bruno, is a canny Bordeaux merchant who learnt early the vital relationship between wine's quality and price. So pay marginally more for this and relish the extra dollop of zesty, herbaceous fruit. Like many new-wave, citrussy Bordeaux whites, this one is mainly a sauvignon blend with semillon.



1995 Maître d'Estournel, Bordeaux Rouge, Oddbins, £5.99

Unsurprisingly, for a house whose top clarets are second-growth Cos d'Estournel and its impressive but now-pricey new second wine Pagodes de Cos, this claret is again a good cut above the Bordeaux norm: its elegant, mature fruit is ready for drinking now and, with simple roast meats like steak or chops, shows the form of a good claret from an excellent year.



BEST OF THE REST

Somerfield and Gateway's spring deals continue to astound, with £1.30 off their juicy 1995 Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon (£2.99) from the top quality La Rosa winery. The same generous discount also applies to Cottin's basic 1996 Somerfield White Burgundy and the deeply toothsome 1996 Buzet Cuvée 44, both £3.69. Offer ends April 28.

هكذا من الأصل

The Times Cook



Frances Bissell

In late spring, try an adventurous culinary delicacy — a freshly cooked seagull's egg (or maybe two)

What makes a delicacy? Is it purely arbitrary? Does it vary from culture to culture? Is it to do with rarity value and cost, like caviare and lobster?

There might also be an element of danger or daring, such as eating the poisonous fugu fish in Japan and wild mushrooms in Finland. In certain cultures some foods are regarded as delicacies, the eating of which is frowned on in others: for example, frogs' legs in France and dogs in China.

A delicacy is perhaps all of the above, but to me it is to do with being curious and adventurous, rather than having a sophisticated palate. The first person who ate a raw oyster or decided to salt and eat raw sturgeon's eggs must have had a very adventurous palate.

Seasonality rather than rarity denotes delicacies for me, and the mystique that allows you to eat foods at certain times of the year and not others. With that definition, I would rather have a large



basket of delicacies: black truffles in February; the first wild salmon in early spring; gulls' eggs in late April; English asparagus in May; Cornish crab in June; grouse in August; native oysters on September 1; white truffles in November.

For me, a delicacy is savoury and has had as little done to it as possible to make it palatable. Many of our delicacies in Europe come from the sea, but in other landlocked cultures they are things that creep, crawl and fly.

There is one type of delicacy in which there seems to be an element of universality: fungus — truffles in France and Italy; hallucinogenic mushrooms in Finland; bamboo fungus and flower mushrooms in China; huitlacoche or corn fungus in Mexico.

I have no direct experience of eating brightly coloured mushrooms in Finland, but other fungus I know to be delicious, as well as highly prized and expensive. At this time of year, those in the know will be out looking for morels, the wild mushrooms of late spring with their incomparable taste and texture. They are also good with chicken, an organic or traditional free-range bird, perhaps a Label Rouge *poulet noir* or, if you want to push the boat out, a real *poulet de Bresse*.

Apart from a fondness for fungi, cultural differences are quite marked with delicacies. Distinctively textured foods are enjoyed by many, yet loathed by others. Jellyfish, sea cucumber and other crunchy, gelatinous foods are an important element in Chinese gastronomy. Tripe, pigs' ears, tails and trotters are also enjoyed there, as well as in the Iberian peninsula. I admit to a deep fondness for these dishes, sticky and crunchy at the same time. As they require a good deal of attention in the kitchen this, in a sense, brings them into the realms of luxury as well as delicacy.

Most societies probably need over-valued goods which provide something to aspire to, whether it is a house, a car, a designer dress or a pot of caviare. But then come the imitators — if we cannot afford real balsamic vinegar, someone will spot a commercial opportunity and make us a pale copy of the real thing.

At this time of year, my delicacy of choice is a seagull's egg. Or two.

Because of EU regulations, butchers and game dealers, who sell gulls' eggs in the late spring season, are not allowed to cook them on the same premises where meat is being prepared. This means you cannot always get them freshly cooked but unrefrigerated. Like most things, gulls' eggs taste best freshly cooked. So I decided to order and cook them myself under the guidance of Allens of Mount Street, west London (0171-499 5831), supplier of fine meat and game to top hotels and restaurants in London.

In a good gull's egg, when cooked and tested, the egg white will show an opalescent blue-white. In a bad egg, the yolk will simply not cook and remains runny. It will also smell "off". To examine the cooked egg, pierce and slightly open the shell at each end with a skewer.

To cook up to a dozen gulls' eggs, put in cold water, bring to the boil and boil for 5-6 minutes. Drain the eggs, run them under cold water and, when cold, carry out the test described above, then serve.

Gulls' eggs are eaten with a little celery salt and perhaps some bread and butter. What to drink? Since they are not an inexpensive treat, you will probably want to open a special bottle. Mature vintage champagne and fine old white burgundy are highly recommended. We have also tried good cava and a very old dry oloroso.

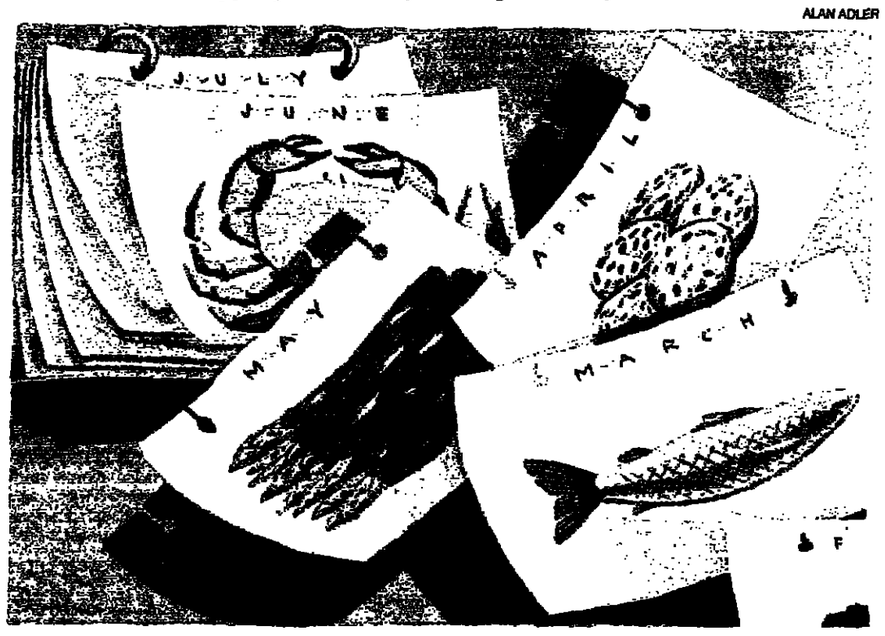
Quail eggs do not have the same value attached to them because they are now so readily available. If you have the time and inclination, these delicate small eggs can be turned into all manner of dainties — fried and served with tiny young asparagus spears; poached and served on miniature muffins as eggs Benedict; boiled, shelled and served in a sauce in a nest of green tagliolini; not to mention as salad garnishes or even individual quail egg omelettes. But quail eggs are not a good idea for large numbers, unless you pile them, hard-boiled, in a basket, hand round seasoned salt, and let your guests help themselves and shell their own eggs. Quail eggs for two to four is a manageable plan, but for six or more it is asking for trouble, unless you have someone to help you. They are devilishly fiddly and difficult to shell; here is one of my favourite ways of serving them.

Baked quail eggs in potatoes

12 small potatoes, weighing about 60-75g each
Salt and freshly ground pepper
50g unsalted butter, melted
12 quail eggs

Wash and scrub the potatoes. If new, they should not need peeling. With a melon baller or sharp grapefruit spoon, scoop out a hollow in each potato large enough to hold the quail egg, and remove a very thin slice from the bottom to allow it to stand flat. Put the hollowed-out potatoes in a pan of salted water and boil briskly until just cooked. Drain.

ALAN ADLER



Preheat the oven to 180C, gas mark 4. Brush the potatoes inside and out with melted butter, season lightly and stand them on an oiled baking tray. Carefully crack a quail egg into each potato. Place in the top half of the oven, and bake for 5-8 minutes. Serve immediately.

This next recipe is inexpensive and produces a rich, sticky, slow-cooked dish which will, more or less, look after itself in your oven. You can cook it for even longer in a slower oven and have a warming dish to come back to on a cool spring evening. By the time they are cooked, the pigs' trotters will have collapsed into tender morsels.

Braised pigs' trotters with mushrooms and black beans
Serves 4

4 pigs' trotters
2 onions
2 sticks celery
2 leeks
2 or 3 slices of ginger
4 cloves garlic
1-2tbsp fermented black beans
1 bouquet garni
300ml pork or chicken stock or a mixture of rice wine and water
Freshly ground black pepper
½tsp five-spice powder
150g fresh shiitake or oyster mushrooms
150g button or cap mushrooms

Wash and dry the pigs' trotters and lay them in the bottom of the casserole. Peel and thinly slice the vegetables and lay them on top. Add the ginger, garlic and beans, bouquet garni, the stock, or wine mixture, and the pepper and spices. Cook for three hours at 170C, gas mark 3. After two hours add the fresh mushrooms.

Before serving, you might like to strain off most of the juice, reduce it by half, season to taste and return it to the pot. Serve with a bowl of rice and some stir-fried oriental greens, with a mango sorbet to finish.

If the mango is very ripe, this sorbet should be sweet enough without adding any sugar.

Mango sorbet
Serves 4

2 ripe mangoes
Unsweetened apple juice

Slice the mangoes in half down both sides of the stone and scoop out all the flesh from the skins into a measuring jug. Remove as much flesh as possible from the stone. Pour into a blender or food processor and blend until smooth.

Next add apple juice to make up to 600ml and blend once more. Taste and blend in some icing sugar if the mixture is too bland, keeping in mind that it will almost certainly have much less flavour when frozen.

Freeze, either in a sorbetière or automatic ice-cream maker, according to directions.

© Frances Bissell 1998

NEXT WEEK:
Fusion cooking

THE PERFECT ROAST CHICKEN

CHOOSE the most expensive bird you can afford: an organic chicken will give a thick crisp skin, flavourful meat which does not fall apart when you bite into it and good stock when you boil up the carcass.

■ YOU NEED for three to four people: a 1.25kg chicken, one bay leaf, two cloves, half a lemon, salt and pepper.

■ METHOD: Remove any excess fat from the body cavity. Spike the bay leaf with the cloves and tuck this into the cavity. Rub the bird all over with the cut lemon, squeezing the juice over the bird, and then put the half lemon inside. Lightly season inside and out, and place the chicken on its side on a rack in the roasting tin.

Roast for 20 minutes in a preheated oven at 200C, gas mark 6. Turn on to its other side and roast at the same temperature for 20 minutes. Finally, turn the chicken on its back and roast for about 15 minutes to brown it nicely. Juices, which are released when you pierce the inner thigh with a skewer, should be clear and not pink.

Transfer the chicken to a serving platter.

■ SERVE: Try serving with a simple gravy.

Skim and discard the fat from the pan juices and transfer them to a saucepan. Add a splash or two of the wine you will serve with the chicken and simmer for five minutes. If you wish, thicken with a little potato flour or cornflour.

Next week:
The perfect macaroni cheese



CONSUMING INTERESTS: MICRO-BREWERY BEERS

A little touch of spice

Joe Warwick discovers not all Indian food is what it seems: a lot is Bangladeshi

HOME COOKING



The owners in preparation



Ali Anfor, left, with Channel 5's Jennifer Hughes and Akbor Ali on National Curry Day

Like three-quarters of all those working in Britain's Indian restaurants, Akbor Ali, whose Penge restaurant Belash Tandoori recently won a special recommendation at the Carlton Food Awards, is actually from Bangladesh.

In Akbor's opinion, this misconception was never a marketing ploy, but rather a misunderstanding perpetuated by Bangladeshis who came to Britain with very little English in the Fifties. When asked where they came from they said India, "because it was easier than trying to explain about Bangladesh," he explains. The Belash Tandoori, which Akbor runs with Ali Anfor, his cousin, has been open for 27 years. The two cousins took over last year.

Akbor followed his father to England from Bangladesh at the age of ten in 1976. Unsurprisingly, he suffered an immediate culture shock. "It was quite hard for me adjusting to the weather. I found it difficult coming to terms with the language too. It was bitterly cold in Oldham where I first moved to. I was not used to that." He diplomatically described his experience with English school dinners as "all right," but found that as a practising Muslim, there were limits to what he could consume.

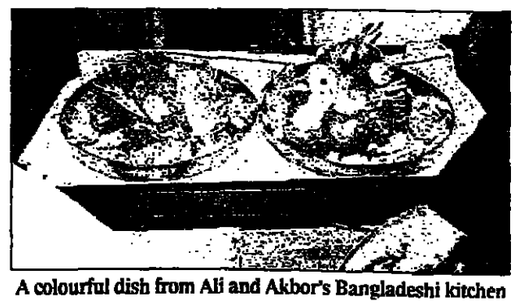
> 'Food in Bangladesh was fresh as it was gathered daily'

When he was a boy in Bangladesh the food was fresh, with everything from chicken to vegetables gathered daily. His favourite dish was chicken korma: "My korma would have whole onions, but the size of spring onions, and we'd take all the chicken off the bone. It had a really nice flavour that you can't get here — the sauce was different."

Akbor believes it is the ingredients and not the basic recipes that make authentic Indian cuisine different from the version served in Britain's curry houses. Authentic Indian food does not contain so much meat because "meat is too expensive for many people. In Bangladesh people tend to eat a lot more fish. The fish is stripped off the bone and fried with onions and then put in a curry. On special occasions there is Hilsha fish which is prepared by scraping the meat out of the fish. It is then mixed with onion, coriander, green chillies and egg. It is crushed together into balls and then fried."

One of his most vivid memories of his early childhood in Bangladesh is the hierarchy of group meal times. "There would be two seating shifts at lunch and dinner every day, with beween 30 and 40 people," he recalls. The daily gatherings would consist of his family, friends and those who worked with the family. "The men would sit down first. They would eat their meal and have a talk. When they had finished the women would come in and they would have their meal." More poignantly, he recalls the warm atmosphere of weddings and other special occasions with food being cooked outdoors under woodfire grills.

Akbor started working in restaurants at the age of 15 in Britain. He developed his cooking skills gradually through his experience at various restaurants, but it was his mother who first taught him how to cook. "She was the expert," he explains. He has never strayed far from his native cuisine, having never touched pasta or Chinese food (with the exception of prawn crackers). "There's nothing wrong with different cuisines," he says. "It's just that none of it is spicy enough for me."



A colourful dish from Ali and Akbor's Bangladeshi kitchen

CONSUMING INTERESTS: MICRO-BREWERY BEERS

In recent years hundreds of small breweries have opened to add variety to Britain's beers.

I sampled a selection of beverages from those micro-breweries willing to contemplate mail order operations, but some of the beers are also available in pubs locally, or even in supermarkets nationwide. All those tried had a distinctive appeal and offered something noticeably different from the big brewers' output. All microbreweries offer other beers in varying styles. Worth a look.

ROBIN YOUNG



Nethergate Umbel Ale, *£20.95 for 12 500ml bottles, from Nethergate Brewery Co, 11-13 High Street, Clare, Suffolk, CO10 8NY (01787 277244). Also available from Tesco.*
Claims: "A class apart. Traditionally brewed with whole leaf hops, best quality malted barley and coriander." OG 1039, ABV 3.8 per cent.
Verdict: The most distinctive and flavoursome of all the beers on trial. As a coriander addict, I found this warmly spicy product particularly appealing and well-crafted. Worth seeking out. ★★★★½

Norman's Conquest, *330ml, £1.31 per bottle, from Cottage Brewing Company, Little Orchard, West Lydford, Somerset TA11 7DQ (01963 240551, or freephone 0800 7318362).*
Claims: "Brewers of the supreme champion beer of Britain." OG 1066, ABV 7 per cent.
Verdict: A dark, strong bottle-conditioned beer with a pronouncedly fruity flavour and a touch of bitterness in the finish. Not stout, but decidedly portly. The beer, which won the supreme champion title in 1995, is now brewed under licence by the Hampshire Brewery in Romsey. It carries its alcohol content with ease. ★★★½

Alexander's Downfall, *£4.75 for a four-pint flagon, from Burntisland Brewery, 83 Burntisland, Fife, KY3 9AA (01592 873333).*
Claims: Brewed in Scotland. OG 1045, ABV 4.3 per cent.
Verdict: A decent enough beer with lots of flavour, but an acrid edge, which I did not particularly like. ★½

Dorothy Goodbody's Wholesome Stout, *500ml, £1.8 for 16, from Wye Valley Brewery, 69 St Owen St, Hereford, HR1 2JQ (01432 342546/274968).*
Claims: "A bottle-conditioned beer." OG 1049, ABV 4.9 per cent.
Verdict: A smooth, well-rounded stout, brimming with a strong burnt flavour, but my bottle suffered from frothy over-enthusiasm. ★★½

St Peter's Golden Ale, *£2 a bottle, from St Peter's Brewery, South Elmham, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 1NQ (01986 782322).*
Claims: OG 1044, ABV 4.7 per cent.
Verdict: A stylishly bottled topaz-coloured lager-like ale from a husband-and-wife team. Very, clean, pleasing, civilised and refreshing, but I do not find the sharpish beer quite as beautiful as its flagon. ★★½

Fresh Natural Beer, *£20.56 for 24, from Freedom Brewing Co, The Coachworks, 80 Parsons Lane, London SW6 4HU (0171-731 7372).*
Claims: "Beer from the first lager micro-brewery in the UK." An unpasteurised premium lager, available in 100 London bars and at Tesco.
Verdict: Smooth and tasty, vying with Samuel Smith's as my favourite among British lagers, though I still think "British" and "lager" are a contradiction in terms. ★★★

Frog Island Croak & Stagger, *£10.25 for three, from Frog Island Brewery, The Maltings, Westbridge, St James Road, Northampton, NN5 5HS (01604 557772).*
Claims: "The recipe uses the finest raw materials to ensure a hand-crafted gem of a beer." OG 1056, ABV 5.6 per cent.
Verdict: A bittersweet bottle-conditioned beer with a complex and intriguing series of flavours: sweetly fruity at first, then vigorously malty. A cold-weather winner. ★★★½

MORE FOOD & DRINK IN the times magazine

Jonathan Meades on Al San Vincenzo; plus life in a restaurant kitchen

Listed building? Don't give it house room

Owners of heritage homes say bureaucrats are making their lives wretched. Rachel Kelly reports

DES JENSON



Terrance Bradley: "Conservation officers seem to think that every home owner wants to destroy the house they live in"

Buyers once delighted in the status of owning a listed building. Now they increasingly despair.

A new club representing owners of the country's 362,370 listed buildings reports that members are complaining about the cost and hassle of owning listed property. The Listed Property Owners Club was set up three years ago to provide information for those who own or live in listed buildings. Now it has become a shoulder for its 2,000 members to cry on.

Terrance Bradley is typical. Mr Bradley, 41, a civil servant, bought a Grade II coachhouse in Redbourn, near St Albans in Hertfordshire, with his wife 18 months ago. Ever since he has been wrangling with the conservation officer at St Albans district council.

"Conservation officers don't work by logic," he says. "There are so many hypocrisies and anomalies, it is unbelievable. They seem to think that every home owner wants to destroy the house he lives in."

Mr Bradley says the council has blocked all plans — from improving the windows to adding a garage — for his four-bedroom house, once owned by the Queen Mother's family, the Bowes Lyons. When he asked the council if he could have a metal chimney flue coming out of the back of the house (which overlooks a car park) the council said it was unsightly, despite the fact that many other listed buildings in the area possess similar flues. The rejection is currently subject to appeal.

When he wanted to replace the standard modern windows with sash windows more in keeping with the house's character, he was refused permission. Mr Bradley says the council argued that it could not be certain that those were the windows the house had in 1790.

"It is completely illogical," says Mr Bradley, who points out that the modern windows were added by the last owner. It seems the council is trying to preserve a 20th-century window frame. In its defence, a council spokesman insists "fake Georgian sashes would give a confusing picture of the original form of the building". He adds: "The clumsy windows Mr Bradley has now are not approved and do not represent our advice."

> 'English Heritage always wants you to make repairs but you have to pay for these repairs yourself'

Most of the brickwork had been lined with traditional lime putty and horsehair by the previous owner. But when Mr Bradley wanted to do the same to the back wall the council refused permission. "Everything is subjective with them, not objective as it should be," he says.

The council takes a different view. "Mr Bradley was not refused permission. It was suggested we should agree a sample panel and we commented unfavourably on the first one. Our advice on more suitable materials was ignored and the results can be judged."

Peter Anslow runs the Listed Property Owners Club and deals with the 40 complaints a week. "People are surprised by the restrictions placed on them," he says.

Under the 1990 Planning Act it is a criminal offence to alter or extend a listed building in such a way that its character is affected without consent from your planning authority. Penalties can be severe: fines running into thousands of pounds or even imprisonment. As a spokesman for English Heritage says, "even minor work such as painting may affect the character of a listed building". Anyone wishing to make changes to a listed building must apply for consent. Mr Anslow says: "Conservation officers can be highly demanding and often people can't afford the changes."

Though VAT is waived on alterations to listed buildings, repairs are liable to the full 17.5 per cent. Mr Anslow says: "We would like VAT to be free on all work on listed buildings, but this is not likely to happen." There also appear to be strange anomalies in the system. Underpinning, for example, is considered an extension and does not attract any tax. The annoying thing is, as Mr Anslow explains, "that English Heritage always asks you to repair but you have to pay for these repairs yourself".

A spokesman for English Heritage says: "It is in the interests of the owner of a listed building to look after his asset. English Heritage has no power to ask anyone to repair anything. Only local authorities have this power and they use it extremely rarely."

Most members join the club because of the problems they are facing, Mr Anslow says. "On top of all the planning problems facing owners of listed buildings is the issue of money," he says. "Everybody is looking for a grant, but grants are almost non-existent."

English Heritage policy is generally to restrict grants to Grade I and Grade II* properties (6 per cent of all listed buildings). Local authorities have a wider scope for grants but many people are left frustrated. Mr Anslow says: "Conservation officers have a limited budget and there is little uniformity in the way grants are distributed."

The club has recently launched a loan package in collaboration with the American bank MBNA International for those with assets but restrained by a lack of capital.

● *The Listed Property Owners Club: 01795-844 939.*

DREAM HOUSE OR HORNET'S NEST?

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Adam Barnard outside his parents' listed home in Barnes

EIGHT years ago my parents bought a five-bedroom 18th-century townhouse overlooking the Thames in Barnes, southwest London. The house was beautiful, atmospheric and well-located; better still, the modernisation it required kept the price well below £1 million.

We relished the challenge of restoring the property. My father, a businessman, had always fancied himself as an architect. My mother was a frustrated interior decorator, but the house needed a lot of work. The previous owner had abandoned the top floor, and heating, electricity and water had to be brought up-to-date by half a century. Wallpaper and carpets were in poor condition, and some structural issues — the sloping floor in the upstairs kitchen, for example — demanded our attention, but nothing was beyond redemption.

A little organising and decision-making, and, in about nine months, we decided, we would have our new home.

It would all, in fact, have been fine, but for one crucial factor. The house was Grade II listed. Everything we did would have to be approved by the local council and, ultimately, English Heritage.

As we understood it, the house was listed to preserve the 1775 features — the brickwork, the stableyard, the coachhouse, the old servants' quarters in the cellar — which were clearly of historical interest. But when Richmond council asked us to keep wood panelling in a cupboard, which had existed for less than 100 years, or tried to prevent us restoring a passage which had been in the original house, we lost patience.

Letters were written and heated phone calls exchanged. Historical records were obtained and the advice of period architects sought. Our architect was Peregrine Bryant, an expert in his field with 25 years' experience. He remembers the disputes as "a real bore". He says: "There was so much correspondence, so much waiting. We all had a little bit of historical knowledge yet everyone came to different conclusions. I remember getting into a terrible rage with the local authority waiting for them to make up their minds. Time is money." Agreement on the design of "suitable" front railings (the issue being whether the gate should be made a quarter of an inch wider) took almost a year. We received only £3,000 from the local council for restoration work that cost well over £100,000. And the £3,000 was not even a grant — it was an interest-free loan.

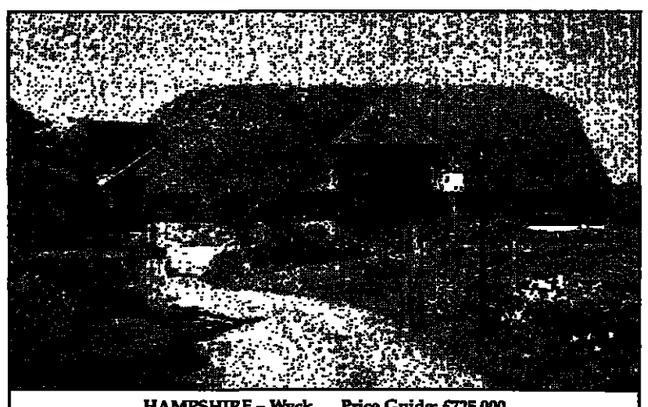


Front railings: took a year to get permission to erect

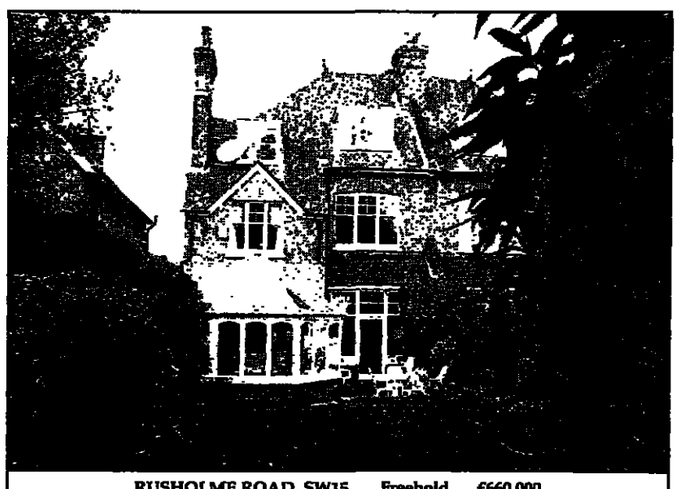
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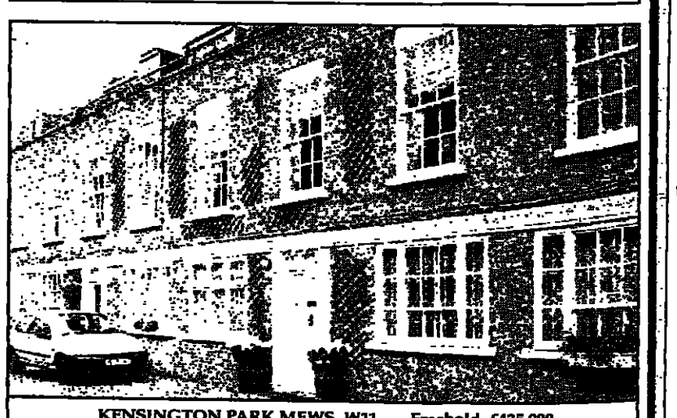
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PASSMORE STREET, SW1.

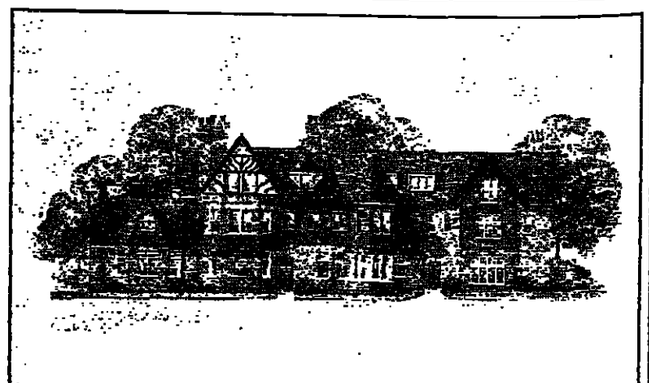
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هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Noah – we could do with some help

Global warming is not the only cause of storms and floods; new homes and roads all add to the problem, says **Nick Nuttall**



Aerial view of houses surrounded by flood water in Banbury, Oxfordshire, last week. Experts warn that such disasters will occur more frequently in Britain

It was a flood of biblical proportions. Vast tracts of western England were plunged under massive floodwaters as the River Severn burst its banks. Hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland were swamped. Homes and settlements were washed away. At the peak of the flooding, the river measured up to 12 miles across as far upstream as Gloucester. Areas of south Wales were badly affected, parts of Bristol were washed away after flood banks at Avonmouth were breached and an estimated 2,000 people lost their lives.

As thousands of communities and householders, from Worcestershire across to parts of East Anglia, mop up this week after the worst floods in living memory, they will feel (not unreasonably) that they are victims of a unique calamity.

Few of them will even have heard of that terrible event on the Severn, the worst flood ever recorded in Great Britain. It was triggered when swollen waters and heavy rains flowed down the river to meet a tidal surge coming up the estuary — all of 392 years ago.

Since then there have been at least ten other significant floods apart from last week's, the most recent being the flash flood which swamped 100 homes and businesses in Polperro, Cornwall, four years ago.

Floods and extreme weather are a fact of life. But the way man has planned his settlements, in almost a Canute-like fashion, has sharpened nature's sting. In addition, a number of factors ranging from global warming to a demand for millions of new homes means the risk of serious flooding is rising rather than receding, despite heavy investments in flood defences.

The trouble is that man has always been attracted to flood-prone areas — they are the best for port developments, for river crossings and for water supplies. Recently, the emphasis for homeowners has been on picturesque settings and leisure activities. During this century, the scale of development of homes, offices, shopping centres and other buildings on flood-prone coasts like East Anglia, and along river basins like the Thames, has accelerated enormously. In 1947, Maidenhead had only 790 properties at risk from flooding. By 1990 the number had grown to 2,300.

"Settlement has always been attracted to flood plains and to river corridors in particular, but it has only been in recent years, as the extent and rate of development have increased, that the true risks have come to be recognised," says Dr Geoff Mance, of the Environment Agency.

In cities, rivers swollen by heavy rains would once have gradually seeped across water meadows and flood plains. But the foundations of buildings act as dams causing water levels to build up; then the flooding upstream gets worse. Many rivers have also been artificially diverted or squeezed and "canalised" by high-sided walls to protect developments sprawling along river banks.

Engineering has reduced the frequency of floods but intensified the devastation during extreme weather when rivers suddenly overwhelm walls and defences. Concrete and Tarmac towns, roads and motorways act as impermeable skins so that rainwater washes down drains and culverts into already swollen rivers and streams rather than soaking away into the soil and underground aquifers.

There are other man-made factors. A report on the floods which hit Sussex and swamped Chichester in the winter of 1993-94 put the blame partly on the fact that the River Lavant, which rose four times its normal level, had been diverted through the city centre. Surrounding roads and sand and gravel pits acted as barriers, blocking swollen ground waters from passing to the harbour.

The situation is further aggravated by the fact that water tables under many big cities are returning to historical levels, with the decline of heavy industry and the migration of big water users, like breweries, to edge-of-town sites. In London, the table is rising by two metres a year and will soon put deep basements, the Tube and some underground car parks at risk from flooding. About two million hectares of land in England and Wales are now vulnerable to flooding from rivers and the sea.

The defences cost the Environment Agency more than half its annual budget (at least £250 million annually). The defences are not designed to be foolproof but they are expected to avert national catastrophe when enormous storms or flood waters occur.

The agency and the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions have recently issued guidelines aimed at steering development away from flood-prone areas. The agency is also trying to reduce the extent to which roads and building schemes add to floods. Some motorways are now built with large storage ponds to collect surface water which can later be released to river systems. The NEC in Birmingham has a giant lake which does the same job.

As Dr Mance says, "We are trying to encourage new thinking." So the agency is looking at porous pavements, which will allow rainwater to drain away from city centres and roads, and storage ponds for houses which will collect rainwater from the roof, hold it and pump it on to gardens during dry spells. However, all these schemes could be dwarfed by climate change and geological movements. Sea levels around parts of the coast have already risen by about six inches since the 1920s. The British Isles is tilting and southern England is dipping four millimetres a year into the sea. As a result, storm surges of the kind that ripped up the Severn in 1606 will be more dangerous, and coastal homes will be even more vulnerable to gales.

Thermal expansion of the oceans due to rising worldwide temperatures are expected to push up tides even further. A few weeks ago, an entire month's supply of rain fell in one day. Nature's greatest coup would be to flood London. Some 62 square kilometres of the capital lie below the level of the Thames at high tide. The Thames Barrier at Woolwich has saved the capital 29 times since it began operating in 1982 and in October 1996 it saw off the highest tide on record.

However, climate change means London's safety can no longer be guaranteed during the barrier's planned 50-year lifetime. "It is going to need refurbishing in 10 to 15 years," says Dr Mance.

WORST FLOODS

March 1606, Severn Estuary: tidal and flood waters drowned 2,000 people.
January 1928, Central London: highest ever recorded tide at London Bridge, 14 drowned.
March 1947, Nottingham: 600 acres flooded after rain and snow.
Aug 1952, Lynton and Lynmouth, Devon: 34 people killed.
February 1953, east coast and Thames Estuary: Surge tide killed 300 people.

BRITAIN UNDER THREAT

HOW FLOODS HAPPEN

- Heavy rains send flood waters downstream. Storms at sea send tidal surges upstream.
- Nature's flood defences - floodplains and water meadows - have been lost to development.
- Rivers have been diverted and squeezed behind walls to suit developers.
- The Tarmac and concrete of cities stop rainwater being soaked up by soils.
- Drains feed rainwater into already swollen rivers.
- Foundations, roads and developments like quarries act as dams, blocking flood waters from seeping away.

CLIMATE AND GEOLOGICAL CHANGES

- Parts of southern England are tilting into the sea at four millimetres a year.
- Thermal expansion of oceans raises sea levels, making coastal areas more vulnerable.
- Gales, tides and torrential downpours are forecast to become more frequent.
- Heavy rains fall and cascade off parched land into rivers, increasing the risk.

THREATENED AREAS

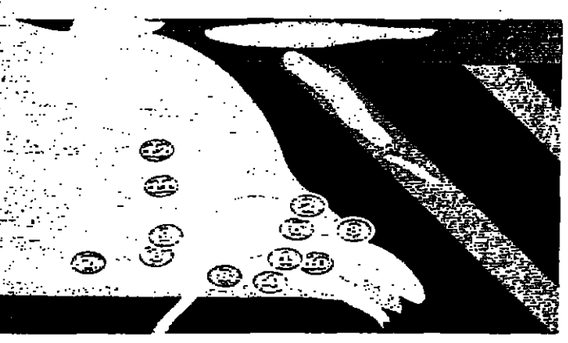
1. Maidenhead and Windsor.
2. Hull.
3. Lincolnshire and Norfolk coast.
4. Shoreham.
5. Gainsborough.
6. Avonmouth to Gloucester.
7. Minehead, Somerset.
8. Chichester.
9. Evesham, Worcestershire.
10. London.
11. Lancaster.
12. Carlisle.

WATER TABLE

- Water levels under many big cities like London, Birmingham and Liverpool were lowered by industry and brewing.
- But these are returning to normal levels after the collapse of heavy industry and relocation of breweries.
- So newer office blocks with deep foundations, parts of the Tube network, underground telecommunications and electricity cables are in danger of flooding and damage from rising water levels.

THE FUTURE

- The drainage systems of motorways and roads are to be fed into storage ponds so that rainwater can be more slowly fed into rivers and streams.
- There are plans to put storage ponds, designed to look like lakes, in large developments like the NEC in Birmingham to do the same.
- Porous concrete and Tarmac are being studied to help rainwater to soak away into ground.





'There was lots of angry water'

Percy Harewood was trimming the trees in his Kidlington garden on Good Friday when he looked across the meadow and realised the Cherwell had burst its banks. Four hours later he and his wife Audrey, above, were in more than a foot of water as their home flooded. "The speed was incredible. When I looked across and saw the meadows were flooded I dashed up to get the car. The road was a river and there was lots of angry water," says Mr Harewood. It took everyone by surprise, including the emergency services, who only just had time to warn people to get upstairs before the flood waters hit.

The Harewoods grabbed what they could, but had to abandon a cupboard full of antique books and records, as well as the three-piece suite they had bought just three weeks before.

Police evacuated their neighbours by dinghy and took them to a local school, but the Harewoods insisted on staying put on Friday. "My wife's a bit disabled and we wanted to stay at home," says Mr Harewood. "But on Saturday we decided to leave. The police came and broke down the garden fence to get to the front door. They put us up at a local hotel with everything paid for. The emergency services have been fantastic."

It was Monday before the Harewoods could get back into their home. The flood waters had receded, leaving a soggy layer of mud and debris, with carpets and furniture soaked. The council, which owns the house, sent workmen round to take up the carpets. But the Prudential, the Harewoods' insurance company, has not been so quick. Five days after the flood first struck, the Harewoods are still waiting for advice. And they are not alone. "We've always been insured, but there have been lots of delays," says Mr Harewood.

The Prudential advises people to call its 24-hour hotline: "We want to tell people to be patient."

SARA MCCONNELL

FLOOD **INSURANCE**

Get the urgent repairs done first

If last weekend's deluge left you hanging on the phone trying to get through on your insurer's "emergency" helpline, you may be feeling that insult has been added to injury. However, don't be put off from doing things yourself. Ian Frater, spokesman for Commercial Union, says: "Take immediate action. It is not necessary to contact your insurer before carrying out urgent repairs. Most insurers are happy for you to proceed, but keep hold of all receipts."

Top of the list of urgent tasks once the waters have receded is to get a professional to check the electrical wiring in your home. Gas boilers should also be inspected if water has got inside them. Insurers will also recommend accredited contractors who can start the lengthy process of drying out your home.

If at any point you feel you are being overcharged, pay up and pass the receipt on to the insurer, says Mr Frater: "Leave the insurer to fight the battle against unscrupulous tradespeople."

If you can, try to get warm air circulating around your home. Do not worry about the large heating bill as insurers will pay for any extra expense. Do not lift up sodden carpets unless they have been obviously ruined, for example by sewage. Once lifted, carpets will shrink and will have to be replaced even if they could have been cleaned. Do not throw anything away until the insurer has handled your claim.

If you have been forced to abandon your home, you will be glad to hear that most insurance polices cover the cost of alternative accommodation up to 15 per cent of the total sums insured. Flood cover is now a standard feature of building and contents policies. It is possible to buy the two types of insurance separately, but this can lead to some things being uninsured. It is much easier to buy a combined policy, costs of which can vary between £4 and £16 for £1,000 of cover. Just insuring the building, however, can be a false economy as last weekend's events have shown.

Many insurers are now including flood risk cover in the price of their policies. Homeowners in parts of the Humber, for instance, are already paying around 10 per cent more than people elsewhere. This trend will continue as global warming and tectonic shifts mean a rise in sea levels along the eastern and southern coasts of England.

Most floods happen with little or no warning, so learn how to turn off the gas, electricity and water in your home — and make a note of that insurer's phone number.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

'By 7am the water was already up to my husband's waist'



Vera Rootes's home in Northampton was flooded out

Rita Mobbs, who owns a watch and clock shop in Northampton with her husband John, last week lost a large proportion of her stock under the flood waters of the River Nene. Attempts to alert her insurer were thwarted because the office was closed for the Easter break, and it was Wednesday before the company came to assess the damage.

The Mobbses' problems began on Maundy Thursday. "It didn't stop raining and the banks of the river burst," says Mrs Mobbs. "I got a call from my neighbour at 4.30am and, when my husband got there, the water was nearly up to the top of his wellingtons. He worked to save the stock until 7am and by then the water was nearly up to his waist."

Many of the clocks and watches were irretrievable, locked in cabinets submerged beneath the water. Mr Mobbs managed to salvage part of the stock, only to lose some of it to looters later the same day. They cannot say for certain what was taken because the shop is in such chaos, but Mrs Mobbs says: "My husband locked up on Friday morning and when he came back on Friday evening the door was open. There are people opposite who had computers stolen from upstairs. But the police say there's been no more stealing than usual."

Mr and Mrs Mobbs have not yet begun to assess their losses but they know it will be months before the effects of the flood are eradicated. "We won't be able to open for ages. The place smells and there is plaster coming off the walls and the insurance company has told us we are under-insured on our display cabinets."

Mrs Mobbs and her neighbours are angry that there was not more warning of the approaching flood waters. "It's been terrible. The lady opposite has thrown 43 years of her life in her home into a skip."

SM

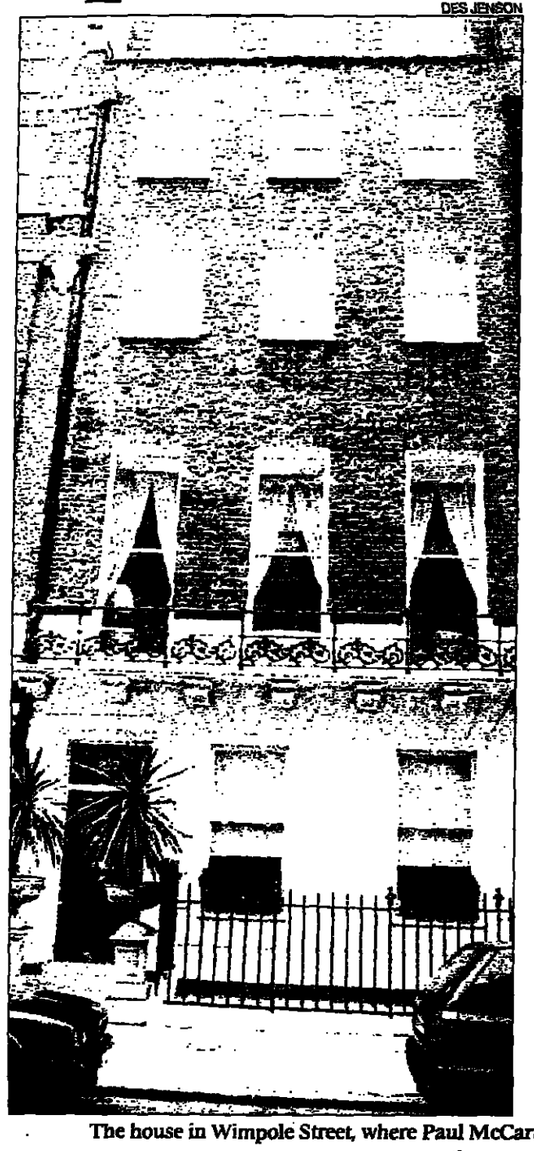
For £1.7 million you could own a property steeped in British recording history. **Alex O'Connell** reports

We all live in a house on Wimpole St

FICTORIAL PRESS



DES JENSON



The house in Wimpole Street, where Paul McCartney lived with Jane Asher and her parents, and gathered with John, George and Ringo to write several of the Beatles' best-known songs

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

He woke up, fell out of bed, rubbed his mop-head and hummed a tune. Hell, what *was* the name of that ballad? Had he heard it on the radio? He asked John, George and Ringo. No one seemed to know.

It was the early Sixties, the song was *Yesterday*, known for a long time as *Scrambled Eggs*; the author was, of course, Paul McCartney. He had dreamt the most successful pop song ever, while staying over at his girlfriend Jane Asher's family home, without even realising it.

Now the opportunity has arisen for anyone with £1.7 million to scoop up the six-storey Wimpole Street house in West London once owned by the Ashers, being sold by John Coletta, manager of Deep Purple and Whitesnake.

Asher, better known at the time for her appearances on *Juke Box Jury* than for her light sponges and steady icing hand, met McCartney at the Albert Hall concert on April 18, 1963. He was being a pop star, she was there on an assignment for *Radio Times*, being photographed studiedly screaming at the Beatles.

After the shoot, she met all four backstage. Myth has it that each of them took a fancy to the pretty 17-year-old but it was Paul who really charmed. McCartney moved into her home two years later.

The Colettas have given the house a complete face-lift and it is unlikely that Paul or Jane would recognise its innards now. But, despite the revamp, it remains structurally the same. And it is rare indeed to find a house in the area that has not been chopped up and part-rented. Although it has the space to be a grand party venue, Wimpole Street is essentially a roomy family home, as it was for the Ashers.

Dr Asher, who specialised in mental health, and Margaret Asher, Professor of Music at Guildhall, had bedrooms on the first and second floors, away from the three children. Claire (a radio actress) and Jane (who spent much of this period touring with The Old Vic) slept one floor up and Peter (of Peter and Gordon fame) and Paul shared the top floor. The two lads had much in common.

Peter was part of the art scene that revolved around the Indica Gallery in Mason's Yard, run by his friends Barry Miles and John Dunbar, the first husband of Marianne Faithfull. It would be the place where John Lennon first saw Yoko Ono.

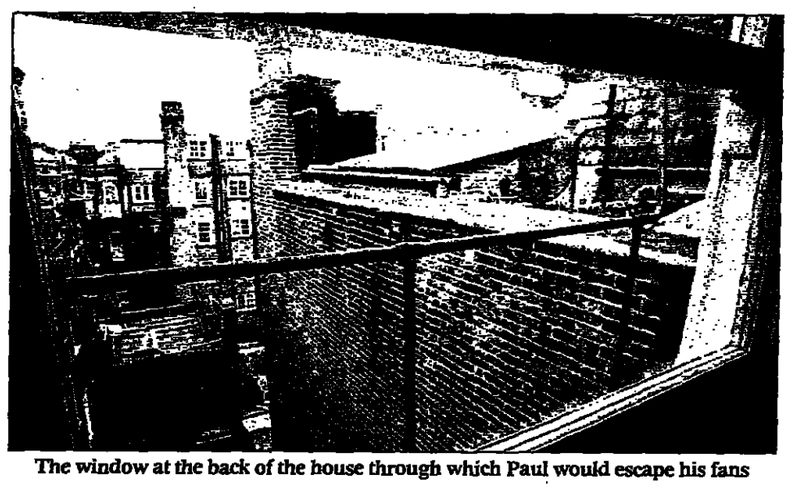
The house now has four spacious reception rooms, two kitchens, five bedrooms and five bathrooms, but the most historically interesting parts are McCartney's garrett and the basement where Mrs Asher taught George Martin to play the oboe and Paul to play the recorder — a skill McCartney demonstrated on *Fool on the Hill*.

It was here, in the depths of the house — now self-contained with separate access from the street — that Lennon and McCartney wrote *I Want to Hold Your Hand*. Gordon Waller, the other part of Peter and Gordon, remembers that Lennon dragged a pedal organ down there while McCartney bashed it out on the piano.

McCartney's self-contained room at the back of house proved to be the perfect retreat from drooling fans but sometimes, even tucked away in this hideaway, the attention became too much and Mr Asher, who became very protective of Paul, devised an escape route from his high window. Paul would climb on to a foot-wide parapet and jump down into the flat of a retired colonel at No 56, before clambering in through the window of a young couple's house and out into their garage.

Only then could he break free through the street door by No 10 Browning Mews and out to New Cavendish Street.

There is a good chance that he wrote more songs during this period, but many early manuscripts were lost in 1965 when Jane Asher threw out a lot of apparent scrap paper in a cleaning frenzy.



The window at the back of the house through which Paul would escape his fans

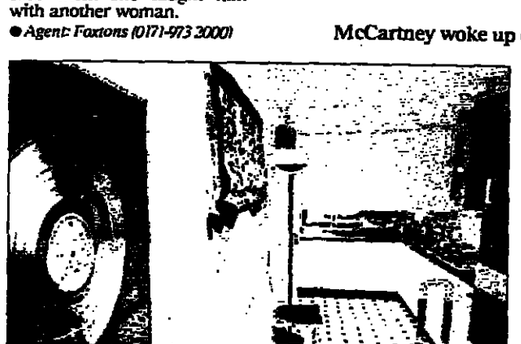
By all accounts she was extremely house-proud, and it was in the long, narrow kitchen that she nurtured a passion for baking. The Ashers used to gather here and it was often used by Mrs Asher's students. Now it is decked out with golden discs, a wall of mirrors and chrome Led Zep-style kitchen furniture. If there's ever a heavy-metal-themed cookery show, here's the set.

Walking around, it is worth considering that it was their time together here that inspired McCartney to write *Every Little Thing*, *We Can Work It Out*, *You Won't See Me*, *Here, There and Everywhere*, and *And I Love Her* — which became one of the most covered Beatles' songs.

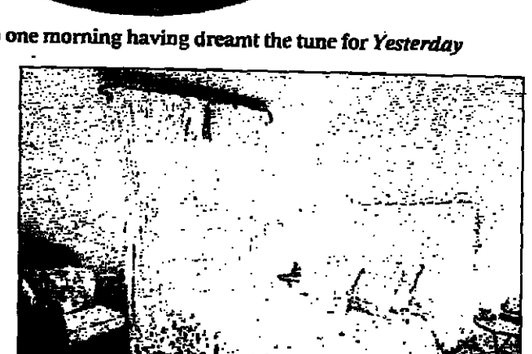
Although Jane was a huge influence on much of Paul's writing, his relationship with the Ashers is often said to have become more important. Jane and Paul finally broke up in 1968 when she caught him with another woman.

● *Agent: Foxtons (0171-973 3000)*

McCartney woke up one morning having dreamt the tune for *Yesterday*



The heavy-metal kitchen, filled with gold records

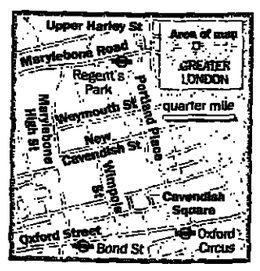


The top-floor bedroom where McCartney slept

MARKET COMMENT

THE BAND north of Oxford Street and south of Marylebone Road in central London is a strangely deserted corner. It is only a few minutes' walk from the fashionable buzz of Bond Street and the eateries of St Christopher's Place, yet the streets are quiet, anonymous-looking and unlit by West End café life.

The area comprises, largely, handsome red-brick Edwardian and Victorian five and six-bedroom houses, and many are treasure troves of period features. According to Cliff Gardiner, of Foxtons Mayfair branch, "they are a kind of poor relation of the Mayfair houses, not quite as big or grand but built in a similar style. Many have been modernised, but they've kept the original proportions and features." The addition of roof



terraces has helped to provide the outside access sought by city dwellers in the 1990s.

So why does this enclave remain largely overlooked among all the frenetic activity of West End property market? The answer lies partly in the strict administration of the Howard de Walden Estate, which owns this segment of the city. The houses are sold on leasehold — unappealing to overseas buyers, who have not bought in the area — many of which have only ten or 15 years to run.

Moreover, the houses very rarely come on to the market. This, in turn, makes pricing property pretty much a stab in the dark: the Wimpole Street house featured here (with a 999-year lease) received valuations of between £1.2 and £2 million from the estate agents asked to quote. It is on at £1.7 million, but Foxtons says that if the lease had had only 35 years to run, the price would have been about £1 million. A subsequent lease extension would cost at least £300,000, and would add at least £600,000 to the value of the house.

FAITH GLASGOW

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CHANGING TIMES

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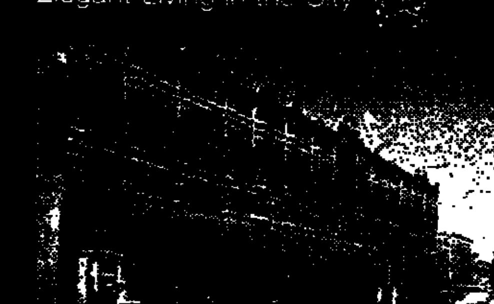
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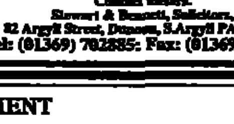
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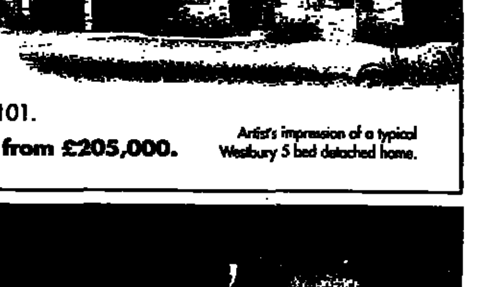
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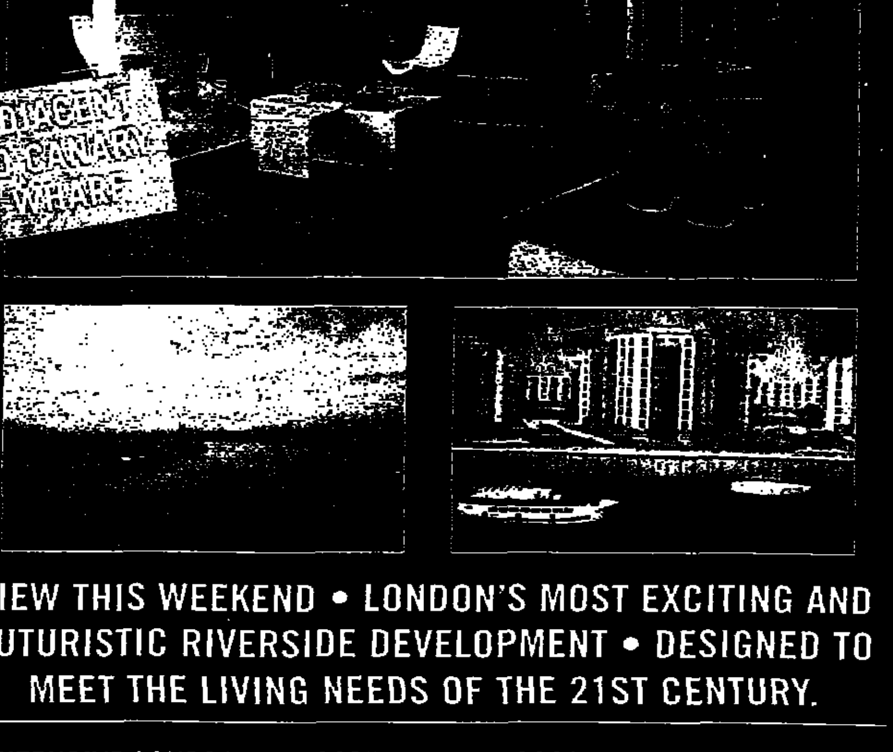
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'If they stop hunting, foxes won't be a bit better off. Farmers will just shoot more of them. It's all cruel, whichever way you look at it'

One man and his dogma

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

A former neighbour of ours, the late Ernie Bugler, was once so enraged by the local hunt trespassing on his land that he waited until they were in full cry across his ten-acre field of kale before he pulled out a gun and shot the fox dead. Afterwards, he yelled rudely at them: "Your dogs are next!"

Unlike Ernie, I don't have a clear-cut opinion on the hunting issue. My attitude tends to fluctuate from distaste at the sport to a grudging admiration for the occasional character involved in it. So I thought it would be useful to visit the kind of ordinary, working countryman whose viewpoint often isn't heard in the media, and gain some fresh insights.

Vic, a terrierman with the Seavington Hunt, agreed to talk to me as long as I didn't give out his surname and lay him open to bother from hostile strangers or, as he put it, "naughty letters".

He's a likeable man, large and friendly, with an easy chuckle, and he's honestly puzzled by the violent feelings that hunting stirs up. They don't seem logical to him. "If they stop hunting, foxes won't be a bit better off. Farmers will just shoot more of them — and it's all cruel, whichever way you look at it."

Vic hardly fits the privileged stereotype, either. He's a farm labourer who has helped the hunt as an unpaid hobby for the past 35 years. He lives in a bungalow near the quiet country town of Crewkerne in Somerset, and he and his wife and six children keep assorted terriers in a kennels in the garden.

In fact, he sees hunting as an improving pastime, something which tends to develop moral fibre. He's proud that no one in his family has ever been summonsed by the police, and says gravely: "I'd sooner my sons went hunting by day than they walked the streets of Crewkerne by night."

Vic became involved with the hunt because he loves watching and listening to dogs and has always been fascinated by the way they follow a scent. Terrierwork has a grim side, but Vic claims that it only seems that way to town people like me, with their queer, modern aversion to killing things. This was trained out of him at an early age: "Father was a farm worker and we didn't have a lot to eat except rabbits. The first job I ever did was to catch a rabbit and kill it."

Basically, the terrierman's job is to prevent the fox from hiding underground. Before the hunt begins the terrierman goes round blocking up any likely bolt-holes and if, in spite of this, the fox manages to find an escape route during the hunt, the terrierman will catch him. He does this by setting dogs — traditionally Lakeland terriers — on to the scent. The Lakelands follow the fox underground and corner him. Then the terrierman digs down towards the sound of their barking, pulls his dogs safely out of the way, and dispatches the fox in a humane kill.

Nowadays, every aspect of this work is hedged with complex rules, most of them inscribed on small laminated cards which the terrierman keeps in his trouser pocket. Some are legally enforceable, like the provisions of the 1992 Badger Act, which makes it an offence to allow a dog to enter a set occupied by a badger. As Vic points out, this is rather restrictive: "A fox doesn't ever dig his own hole: he always uses someone else's — either a badger set or a rabbit earth. I have known badgers and foxes live together — badgers on one side of a big set and foxes on the other."

He has considerable respect for foxes. In the Somerset levels, for instance, he's known them to climb trees to escape the hunt, and every now and then he'll come across one that's so fierce the terriers can't handle it at all. "You'll get a real hard old fox that'll push the terriers right out of the hole. You just have to give up, then."

He reserves his scorn for the hunt's own constantly updated and adapted rules, which occasionally border on the ridiculous, like the stricture that no more than two people should ever help a terrierman dig out a fox. This is hard to keep to, because farmers are so keen to get rid of foxes that they tend to crowd round, offering help. He sees the rules as the beginning of the end for terrierwork, reckoning that the hunt will probably do away with terriers altogether soon, as a way of making their operation less cruel. "I think from next season we mightn't be able to bolt [dig out] foxes at all. They're trying to make hunting look better, and it's my opinion that the masters of foxhounds are going to push the terriers out to keep their own lot going."

I find it interesting that hunting should be struggling to get away from its traditional roots and re-invent itself as a less straightforward and more townified sport, in which the fox won't necessarily be killed at all.

Meanwhile, I still haven't formed a strong opinion on the issue. I suppose my feelings must be closest to those of Vic's wife, who gets fiercely annoyed when foxes eat her chickens, yet carefully avoids any contact at all with hunting. But as Vic says shyly: "We've always got along well enough together."

Victims of the boar war

Wild boar are thriving in Britain's forests. **Matthew Brace** says we should encourage this shy beast

TONY STONE



Managed in the right way, wild boar could prove to be a benefit to wildlife in Britain — and they taste good, too

Deep in an East Sussex wood, we are on the trail of a wild beast that is said to snatch lambs by moonlight and even attack little children. It is not a fox, although farmers hate it as much. We are tracking wild boar, the modern pariah of the countryside.

It will come as a shock to farmers to learn that there are far more of these animals out there than originally thought. Until now the highest estimates have been about 200 individuals, and some people even believe that the boar is extinct in Britain. However, a more accurate and higher figure will be released next month by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry, called in after complaints from farmers in several counties, admits it has found "significant numbers" of boar wild. Kent and East Sussex are the main areas, although Dorset also has its share.

One boar expert believes that many of the forests in southern England are alive with not just hundreds but thousands of the creatures. My guide, James, has tracked and shot boar on the Continent for years and is well versed in their behaviour.

We are crouched by a slow-flowing stream in woods near the village of Catsfield. Among the primroses are tracks — more than one set and fresh, no more than a few hours old. They clearly show the pincer-like hoof marks of the boar. We walk up a slope to a hazel grove and at the top James stops suddenly. We can hear a boar grunting a couple of hundred yards away, then a shuffle of leaves and silence. "They're close," he says.

We are in the danger zone — off the path, in the undergrowth. We tip-toe up a bank and between clumps of scrub and bramble. More tracks — a whole family this time.

"We know some boar escaped from rare-breed farms in the great storm of 1987," James says. "A low estimate would be 150 animals. Assuming one-third were breeding sows, which can have up to 12 young in one litter each year, and the female young can breed at three years old, then we would have thousands of wild boar in the South East alone. Only a handful have been killed or died off."

This is a sobering thought for farmers who have suffered extensive damage to crops. There have been reports of boars destroying bluebell woods, flattening hop fields and vineyards, chomping livestock (six lambs in a night, according to one farmer) and causing road accidents. There are also fears that boars could attack and seriously injure small children. Even Sir Paul McCartney was lambasted recently for allegedly harbouring and feeding boars on his estate on the Kent-East Sussex border.

The results from the Ministry survey will undoubtedly increase farmers' anxiety. However, James believes the demonising of the boar is grossly exaggerated and that problems are due only to an occasional touchy pig that is, in fact, a welcome addition to our wildlife — and tastes pretty good too.

"If they are managed in the right way, wild boar will benefit wildlife in Britain. They are vegetable eaters and spend a lot of their time churning the soil looking for food," he says. "This helps seed distribution and provides a good service to the countryside. Their dung fertilises the ground, too."

Conservation bodies are undecided on the benefits of wild boar. Tony Gent, of English Nature says that they can have good and bad influences on the landscape.

'Boar eat vegetables and carrion. They don't kill for food'

"It's a question of balance. The ground disturbance that wild boars cause is good for some plants such as fen orchids, but they eat things such as bluebells, which is less welcome," he says.

As for being a risk to lambs and children, James thinks that is nonsense: "Wild boars are herbivores. Only in the depths of a bad winter, when vegetables are hard to find, would they eat meat, and then only carrion. They don't kill for food."

He believes it is much more feasible for foxes to take lambs and for boars to be merely scavengers after the feast. However, the animals are ferocious enough for boar farmers (there are roughly 40 in Britain) to require licences under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act and to comply with stringent security regulations.

Sows will become aggressive to protect their young if cornered, especially at this time of year when the litter is only a few weeks old.

We didn't see any boar this day, despite our patience and stealth. It is still rare to come across a boar. For most people a set of tracks and a distant grunt are the only clues to their presence.

"This panic about wild boar is misplaced. Treat them with caution, but don't wipe them out just because of a bit of scaremongering," James says.

"Which would you rather have coming at you when you are out walking with your children in the woods — a wild boar or a rottweiler?"

I settle for the boar.

Finding and preparing wild boar for an extra-lean roast



FRANCES BISSELL

THE WILD boar found in Britain now are related to Polish, German, or other European strains, the English breed having died out long ago, *The Times Cook* writes.

Wild boar "found" by the roadside cannot be sold but can be taken home for consumption if nobody claims ownership. A sympathetic butcher is essential, however.

Properly prepared, it is an excellent meat, fine-grained, full of flavour, and darker than pork, but not strong or gamey. Recipes for roast pork are suitable for wild boar meat, but cooking should be slowed down and extra lubrication added. The meat is lean, and the prime joints such as leg or loin have little, if any, intramuscular fat. Fillets of wild boar, marinated first with peppercorns, herbs, wine and a little brandy, can be used in a terrine, combined with chicken livers and plenty of minced belly pork to add moisture and fat. The meat is not on its own suitable for sausages, but can be mixed with other meats and ingredients. The skin is like armour plating, and should be removed before cooking, although it can be used instead of foil to protect the meat during cooking.



Spit-roasting is ideal for wild boar

Root vegetables and sharp fruit sauces or jellies are good accompaniments, as they are to pork. So, too, are lentils, pease pudding and fresh peas and broad beans.

Wild boar is increasingly available, both by mail order and in a few specialist shops and supermarkets.

The secretary of the Wild Boar Association is Suffolk-based Simon Betney; he can be contacted by phone or fax on 01502 5755555.

There's gold in them there yellow fields

FEATHER REPORT

The first flowers are opening in the fields of oilseed rape, and soon the countryside will be covered with bright yellow patches. Some people dislike these fields, but I find the patchwork of them among the cornfields attractive: on a dull day, they can give the agreeable impression of sunlight on a distant hillside.

Oilseed rape has generally been thought rather inimical to bird life. However, in the past few years I have often seen reed buntings singing from the tops of the plants, and whitethroats dancing and singing in the air above them, both species fairly obviously breeding in the tangle below.

Now, two contributors to the current *British Birds* magazine record their observations in oilseed rape fields in eastern Scotland. They find bird life beginning to flourish in them. They find plenty of reed buntings breeding right out in the middle of the fields, and record several whitethroats singing from telephone wires above them, with one pair rearing a brood, though this was right at the field edge.

Incidentally, whitethroats are just arriving in Britain, and will soon be building their deep, grassy nests everywhere in hedges and bushes. The male makes several "cock's nests" to attract a mate, and one of these may be used to lay in.

These two Scottish observers also bring good news about skylarks and corn buntings, both of which have been having a hard time on farmland in recent years. They call the skylark a "common breeder" in the Scottish rape fields, which indicates that this species can extend its habitat where the crop is grown.

Skylarks nest as much as 200 yards in from the edge of the fields, and sometimes bring up two broods in the course of the summer. Rape gets very dense and tangled as it grows taller, but this does not appear to be the problem for the ground-nesting skylarks that one might have imagined it would be.

The corn bunting's song — a strange, far-carrying sound, like rattling metal — has also become less common in the cornfields in most of Britain, but it too is called a common breeder in the rape, in this case mostly towards the edge.

Like the reed buntings, the corn buntings sang from the tall plants out in the field. Male corn buntings often have two or three mates, and as they sing they keep a watch on all their harem, who are sitting incubating on their respective nests. They will even pursue a female who leaves her nest to feed and keep an eye on her until she goes back.

In addition to these birds, sedge warblers were found singing their jerky song and nesting along the edges, and a few pairs of whinchats and meadow pipits also bred in the fields over the past few years in the lowland counties round Aberdeen.

There is always a loud buzz of insects over the fields when they are in flower, and this attracts birds that feed on the wing. By the beginning of May there will be swallows, house martins and swifts skimming over the flowerheads. They keep to their own levels in the air — the swallows staying low, the martins zigzagging above them, the swifts climbing high.

At the other end of the summer, there are rape seeds to be had, and that attracts further species. Flocks of woodpigeons and starlings come down into the tangle before the harvest, and linnets and yellowhammers, goldfinches and greenfinches forage for scattered seeds afterwards. Sometimes there are seeds still to be gleaned in the winter, and bramblings wintering here from northern Europe go into the stubble fields.

So whatever we may think of them as an addition to the British landscape, there is gold in them there yellow fields for the birds.

DERWENT MAY

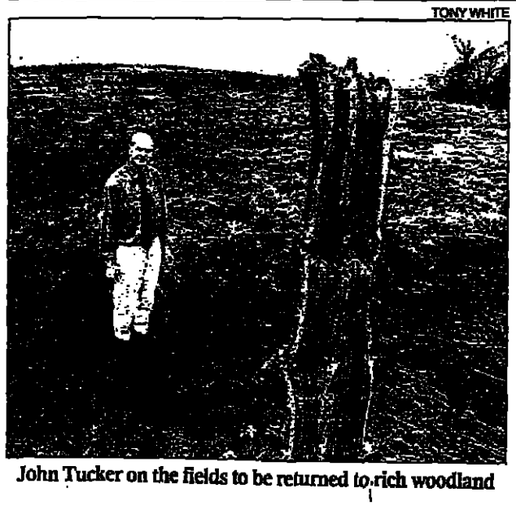
● **What's about:** *Birders — watch for house martins over open water areas and around buildings.*
Twitchers — white gyr falcon, North Uist, Outer Hebrides; a savi's warbler at Minsmere, Suffolk; a night heron on Anglesey.
Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.

PETER BROWN



A whitethroat dancing and singing above a field of rape

TONY WHITE



John Tucker on the fields to be returned to rich woodland

Batchelor who hated trees

The Woodland Trust has won a battle to plant 200,000 trees, **Peter Birkett** writes

A TRACT OF downland, which for two decades was stripped of its woodland by a landowner with a hatred of trees, is about to be replanted in a move which marks a resounding victory in one of the most extraordinary battles ever waged for the landscape of rural England.

In a few months' time, the Woodland Trust is to begin a two-year programme to plant 200,000 trees on the grain prairies created by 68-year-old farmer Hughie Batchelor on the North Downs near Maidstone, Kent.

The planting programme follows the £1 million acquisition by the trust of 598 acres of land formerly owned by Mr Batchelor, who ignored huge fines and even two spells of imprisonment in his determination to maximise his arable acreage.

In Mr Batchelor's 28 years of stewardship it is estimated that he felled tens of thousands of trees and grubbed out tens of miles of hedges. He levelled the ditches and turned the once-lovely downland hillsides into featureless corn and oilseed prairies.

But now, with a grant of more than £1 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the trust is set to restore the landscape for future generations. What is now featureless downland will, in about 20 years, once again become broad-leaf woodland of oak, beech, ash, wild cherry and field maple.

"It is truly satisfying that the very land which saw the excesses of Mr Batchelor's chainsaws is now the site for the biggest of all our 700 projects nationwide," says John Tucker, the trust's south-east regional manager. "It will take time, but with careful planting the area will again become the rich wooded downland that it once was."

In the mid-1970s, when Mr Batchelor began buying his huge estates above the Pilgrim's Way in mid-Kent, the local authority, Maidstone Borough Council, was forced into a campaign to try to control his fervent felling.

First, it tried tree preservation orders, but the farmer simply ignored them. Then he flouted High Court injunctions in support of the preservation orders.

Over the years Mr Batchelor was ordered to pay fines totalling more than £25,000; he was jailed twice for contempt of the High Court and had a third sentence quashed on appeal. And despite these privations, the felling and destruction continued unabated.

But in 1993, Mr Batchelor overstretched himself. He was finally to be forced off his 4,388 acres, bankrupt with debts of £9 million, when a poor yield coincided with an attempt to buy an estate too far.

"He is not all bad," says Michael Nightingale, a member of Maidstone council who led the fight to save the trees. "I admire his farming skills and his tenacity — there are not many people prepared to go to prison for their beliefs. But it is tragic that those beliefs should have involved the destruction of a beautiful landscape."

This year, the downland vacated by Mr Batchelor will remain as wheat fields but eventually the unplanted areas will be returned to traditional grassland and all of it will be open to the public.

"It will all be very different," says Mr Tucker. "Given what has occurred here, it is a victory, both for man and for nature."

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Don't allow the ugly bugs to have a garden ball

Stephen Anderton dips into two new books which offer advice on how to control garden pests



A weevil-hunting wasp: grubs were never so appealing as in *Pests and Diseases*, which is generously and clearly illustrated

I have always thought the point of gardening is to enjoy making gardens and to enjoy looking at them and being in them. It is creativity and aesthetics combined — and some eating, of course. It is picture-making and space-making. But the trouble with gardens is that they are constantly dying, bit by bit.

Rembrandt didn't have this trouble with his pictures. But gardeners do. Everything is constantly either on the way up or on the way out. And speeding that process up, muddying the waters even further, are pests and diseases.

I have a friend who is a professional ecologist. When it comes to pests and even diseases in the garden, she takes a scrupulously live-and-let-live organic approach, taking every disaster cheerfully on the nose. Her garden is a kind of asylum for those beasties cast out of garden society, and, as an ecologist, she readily admits that there is more secret surveillance in her garden than the average episode of *Hetty Winthrop Investigates*. But even she admits that gardens to most people are picture-making and that beasties are in the way.

When the blight bites and the thrips sip, where do you turn for help? There are two new books out on pests and diseases which may solve your problem.

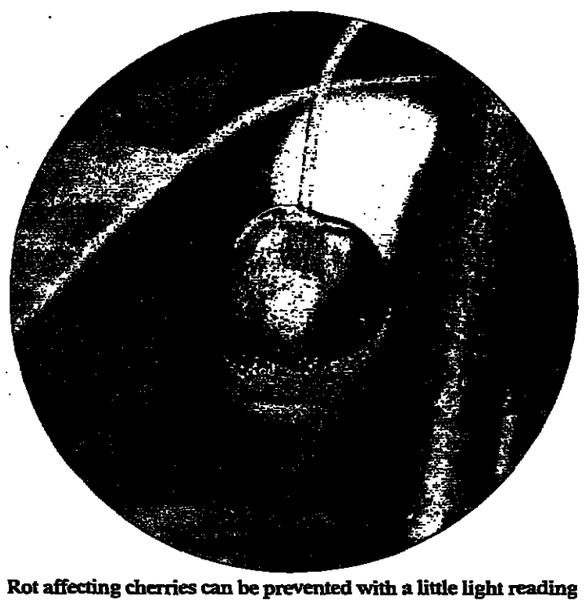
A few years ago, when gardening books were all text with one set of colour pictures marooned in the middle, the only thorough book on pests and diseases was the *Collins Guide to the Pests, Diseases and Disorders of Garden Plants*, by Stefan Buczacki. But times have changed. Different pests and diseases have come to the fore, the available chemicals have changed, and photography has come to the rescue. The new Royal Horticultural Society publication *Pests and Diseases* by Pippa Greenwood and Andrew Halstead is generously and clearly illustrated. Marvellous moulds and gorgeous grubs were never so appealing.

The book is in three sections, each one giving a different route to identifying and controlling the problem. It can be done by symptom, by plant name or by disease name. Between the three, pinning down a problem is made satisfyingly likely. For a subject as unprepossessing as pests and diseases, you could not hope for a more user-friendly book. Gardeners will find it just as technical as it needs be and no more.

It is good to see a book addressing the question of which chemical to use. This one not only names the active chemical ingredients, but the brand names, too. It is extremely useful, and a brave piece of publishing. It can be revised in due course. Not that the book advocates profligate use of chemicals. It explains alternative biological and mechanical controls and sets out clearly the importance of safe and minimal chemical use. But on the assumption that most gardeners will use chemicals, it sensibly explains which are effective.



A vapourer moth caterpillar makes distinctive holes in leaves



Rot affecting cherries can be prevented with a little light reading

Appearing in the bookshops this month is *The Gardener's Book of Pests and Diseases*, by Dr Roland Fox. Batsford, which publishes the book, is known for its excellent single-genus monographs for gardeners on subjects such as cyclamen, euphorbias and saxifrages. Its style is to choose a specialist area and expand on it seriously.

The same approach has been used here, presenting pests and diseases as a special interest area. The book is set out under areas of pest attack, such as leaves and buds, roots, shoots and stems, and flowers. It is fascinating on the life cycles of the various organisms, even if the language lapses into jargon now and then, and there is a lot of background information, all properly cross-referenced, to help you to understand a problem and decide how to control it.

- *Pests and Diseases by Pippa Greenwood and Andrew Halstead is published by Dorling Kindersley in association with the Royal Horticultural Society, priced £17.99.*
- *The Gardener's Book of Pests and Diseases by Dr Roland Fox is published by Batsford, priced £22.99.*

Yes, it's time to think about bedding



Containers: fun and frivolous

The pleasure of annual bedding plants is that they are easy-come and easy-go. They are fun and the frivolous, kiss-me-quick end of gardening. What easier way is there to fill patio containers, spike up a permanent planting of perennials with extra colour, or even to fill a whole border with colour?

The only fiddly part of bedding is raising from seed but these days you can buy a huge range of bedding plants ready-grown and relatively cheaply, either as tiny plugs or as larger plants in 7cm or 9cm pots. If you want to do things easily, buy plants not seed.

Containers should be filled with general-purpose compost. Beds should be dug over and a few handfuls of general fertiliser scattered per square yard. Then plant at the spacing recommended, water in, and off you go.

When to plant: it can often be too early. Why buy bedding plants in April if you cannot plant them out until the risk of frost has gone, in late May or early June? So wait.

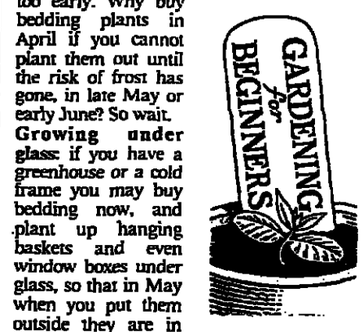
Growing under glass: if you have a greenhouse or a cold frame you may buy bedding now, and plant up hanging baskets and even window boxes under glass, so that in May when you put them outside they are in full swing. But unless you can put bedding plants into their final containers now, it is better not to buy them yet. If you want to grow easy annuals like lavatera, cornflowers, nasturtiums, cosmos, sunflowers and calendulas from seed, you can still sow them in May and June.

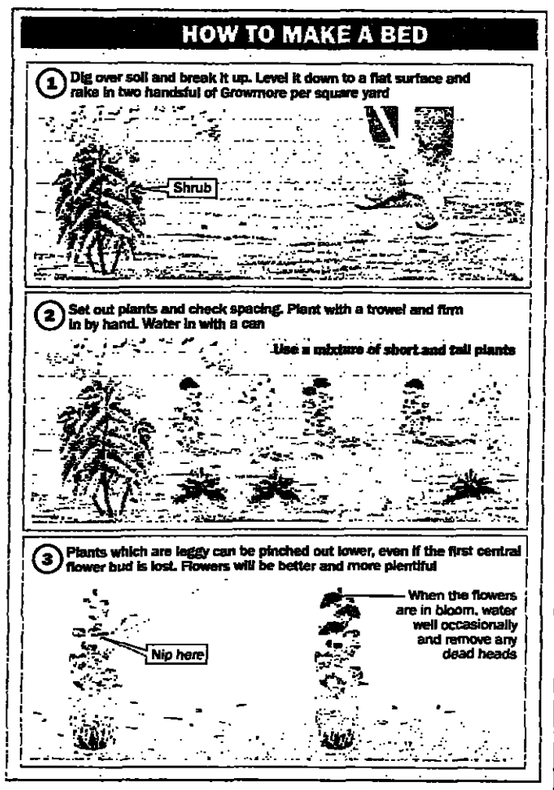
Growing in containers: decide whether you want to grow colourful summer bedding plants in containers or directly in the ground. In containers they look more posed and stylish and dress a patio well, but you have the expense of the containers and the compost. Watering has to be done frequently, especially in hot weather, and it is harder to go away on holiday.

Growing in the ground: this somehow seems old-fashioned and yet it is cheaper and easier than in containers. All you need to buy are the plants and some fertiliser. The watering is far less critical. The flatness of some ground bedding makes it seem municipal. Avoid this by steering away from short varieties of busy lizzies, dwarf marigolds and ageratums. Bedding can be soft and lush if the right plants are used. Select a mixture of short and tall plants, mixing seed-grown areas with planted-out areas.

Keeping the show on the road: bedding plants in moisture-retentive soil may need no watering once they are established, except in drought. But do watch the watering. If you allow them to be dry for weeks on end while they are flowering their little hearts out, they will flower themselves to death. An occasional can of liquid tomato feed helps flower production, too.

S.A.







ANDRE CAMARA

Roger Phillips photographing plants in his London studio

A picture paints a thousand plants

We've come a long way since botanical paintings.

Photography is now a vital asset in preserving our heritage

Pierre-Joseph Redouté's portraits of roses for the Empress Josephine must surely be the best-known botanical paintings in the world. Redouté was a fast worker. In his life he produced perhaps 2,000-3,000 paintings.

Roger Phillips's work may not appear on the walls of smart restaurants as Redouté's prints do, but his portaits of plants must number nearly 20,000. He is a portrait photographer of plants. His 20 books, including photographic guides to wild flowers, garden flowers, fungi and even fish, have sold in their millions.

So where does that leave the modern botanical painter with a living to earn? It cannot be easy.

Mr Phillips worked as a designer in advertising before turning to plant photography 20 years ago. His first books were photographic field-guides on various aspects of natural history. They fulfil the same role as previous wildflower or toadstool books, but replace paintings with photographs. There is no denying that the effect of his photographs is more immediate and it feels easier to make an identification from them.

He does not see himself in competition with botanical painters. "In some ways my job is harder. A photographer cannot make anything up or use drawings for reference. All he can show is the thing itself, as clearly as possible."

Mr Phillips's images are not of perfect, idealised specimens. He chooses typical specimens, yes, but also with such blemishes as nature may have imposed. If the root is significant in identification, he shows that too. As a photographer he can photograph only what he can find, even if it means "jumping in the car and driving 300 miles to catch some species of toadstool which hasn't been seen in Britain for 80 years".

He likes to show flowers face-on but looking as natural as possible, and without any clever back lighting to confuse the eye.

The quality of photographic reproduction has improved out of all recognition in the past 30 years, and photographic recording of plants was some day inevitable. Mr Phillips spotted the need early and filled it most successfully. Today, there is still a little painting of specimens done in the field on plant collecting expeditions, but far more is done by photography simply because it is so much faster. And faster means potentially more comprehensive.



Detail from a Phillips book cover

Garden historians complain that we do not have full descriptions or pictures of all those thousands of popular Victorian varieties, now lost. With luck and photography, such omissions are a thing of the past. People like Mr Phillips, and Derek St Romaine in the Royal Horticultural Society's magazine *The Garden*, do a wonderful job taking "school photographs" of, say, all the penstemons or all the osteospermum varieties. At last, cultivars are getting a reasonably thorough description and a photograph. The Royal Horticultural Society also now makes portrait photographs of all the plants which receive Awards of Merit for quality.

Words and pictures together make it plainer to see which cultivars are really distinct and worthwhile, as opposed to marginally different. It might be that we would dismiss 75 per cent of those lost Victorian varieties as unworthy of a separate name, if we knew as much about them as we do about modern favourites.

Yet there is still a place for botanical painting. Brian Mathew, who edits the 200-year-old *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, from Kew, still values botanical paintings highly and uses them for illustration. "They can show things a photograph cannot show, especially in dissections and exploded views, even the minutest hairs."

But is the writing is on the wall for scientific botanical painting? Kew is busy working its way in paintings through all the cultivated plant species. Only another 249,000 to go. And, meanwhile, electronic imaging is developing fast. If the track record of such technology is anything to go by, it will soon prove equal in quality to the old manual methods.

Curiously, high-quality botanical painting as a decorative art is better paid than painting for scientific purposes which proves that, while it does have a scientific function, it is more highly valued on a wall.

Mr Phillips, meanwhile, has a toe in the "art" market too. He has sold three of his "school photographs" of peonies, tomatoes and aubergines to the French company Nouvelles Images, as posters for the mass market. Maybe this is a niche for someone?

STEPHEN ANDERTON

- *Correction: On the gardening pages on March 28, Rowden Gardens, the aquatic and rare plants specialist in Brentnor, near Tavistock, Devon (01822 810275) was incorrectly listed as not providing mail order.*

A NEW LEAF

■ *The Garden Plant* series by Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix is available from Macmillan, at £19.99 each. Pan Macmillan has launched a series of small paperbacks, the *Plant Chooser* series, at £4.99, including *Salad Plants, Plants for Shade, Traditional Old Roses, Summer Annuals, Pots and Patios*, and *Climbers for Walls and Arbours*.

■ The Society of Botanical Artists' show *Flowers and Gardens* is at the Central Hall, Westminster, from Friday to May 2, excluding Sunday. The society will happily act as a channel for painting commissions via the secretary, Pamela Henderson, on 01747 825718, fax 01747 826835.

■ For a selection of the best of modern botanical painting in print, see *Contemporary Botanical Artists — The Shirley Sherwood Collection*, published by Weidenfeld and Nicholson at £20 paperback, £40 hardback.

Back to Jencks's post-modern future

This garden is full of riddles. **Jane Owen** unravels the clues

This is a garden that requires a clear head. A little patch of Kensington with the qualities of a riddle, an effect multiplied by mirrors. It was created by Charles Jencks, the American post-modernist architect, and his late wife, Maggie Keswick, the Chinese gardens specialist. They were also responsible for the mould-breaking Garden of Cosmic Speculation at their country home in the Borders.

This is their own backyard, and they named it the Time Garden. He did the hard landscaping and she the planting.

"I am against most gardens because I think they do not have a narrative. The Romans tended to throw a lot of sculpture around as if it were a parking lot. The most interesting gardens have a narrative, such as Villa d'Este. It is a cultivated garden in the sense that the word culture means to cultivate your garden."

The Jencks/Keswick garden narrative is complex and onion-layered, with its meaning centering on the seasons, post-modernism, civilisations and time.

From the first-floor balcony at the back of Jencks's large stuccoed house, a double stairway sweeps down to the garden. Its industrial, grey-painted steel balustrades are in a bondage clinch with wisteria.

"Here are mass-produced railings with the living wisteria. I almost like it most when the wisteria is not in leaf and you can see the stems and the railings. What I am trying to do in the garden is to combine the ready-made and the handmade. That is post modernism in a word," says Jencks, who first introduced the idea of post-modern architecture.

An eyecatcher at the far end of the rectangular garden is a mirror-panelled door flanked by pillars. It is capped by a sunray pergola that plays with perspective in much the same way as Jellicoe's Magritte Walk at Sutton Place. This is a simpler (and far cheaper) version of the trick.

Painted across the door are the words THE FUTURE and, visible only as you move closer: IS BEHIND YOU. As you gaze more deeply into The Future, you come face to face with yourself and Jencks's 19th-century cum post-modern house.

"See? You look into the future and see the house — post-modernism rising. I did this in 1984," says Jencks.

"A lot of people who come into the garden think they can go through this 'future' door and go into the next garden. It gives the visual illusion that we own the whole block," he says, laughing.

With your back to the future, the back of the house becomes clear. It has been transformed by Jencks into a façade wide-eyed with huge windows, a pattern reflected in the ground plan of the garden. Here, the Yorkstone slabs, set in aluminium frames, represent windows on the world, a theme running through Jencks's house.

MARIANNE MAJERUS



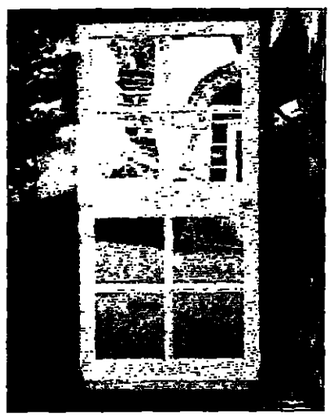
The back of the architect's Kensington house surrounded by wisteria and roses

ALAN WELLER



Charles Jencks on the steps leading to the winter area of his garden, designed with his late wife, Maggie Keswick

ME AND MY GARDEN: CHARLES JENCKS



'An eyecatcher at the far end of the garden is a mirror-panelled door flanked by pillars'

There are occasional nods to pragmatism in this kaleidoscope of symbolism. One side roof, a glorious cross between an onion dome and a tent, has been dimpled to allow a neighbouring *Robinia pseudoacacia* to grow unhindered. Its branches hammer on Jencks's roof when there is a storm.

A pool of green lawn, enclosed by geometric yew hedging, is at the centre of the garden and makes it the part most used for parties and midsummer suppers by the Jencks household.

But it is symbolism which drives the garden. The four seasons are represented in the four corners of the plot by colour rather than by vegetation or props, as well as representing the four great civilisations, the four elements and other themes that come in fours.

Twelve windows around the edge of the garden represent the months of the year and echo the four themes, with their groups of four panes of glass, which act as mirrors.

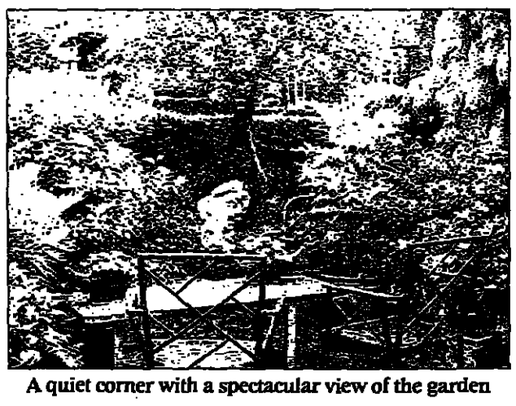
The proper route round the garden is, if you are a child, by bicycle along ramps built into the brick steps and round the perimeter herringbone and basket-weave paths. Adults are required to take a more sedate path clockwise, starting in the east at the spring garden. This part of the garden is also themed on China. Chinese egg pots and mass-produced Chinese Chippendale seats symbolise Chinese civilisation.

South is summer and Egypt. It will eventually have an Egyptian-style fountain in the corner. Autumn — the west garden — America, which has a dwarf maple for colour and an American chestnut.

Each quadrant includes a ceramic plaque picturing a season. The summer plaque, which is mounted beside the yew hedge, is on tracks so that the plaque can "grow" in time with the yew.

The final quadrant, north, which is Europe, is winter.

Europe's story, in the Time Garden at least, is surreal. It is represented by an immense wooden rabbit hutch. However, the rabbit died, the hutch disintegrated and, well, one can only hope that this is not a portent.



A quiet corner with a spectacular view of the garden

Beautiful lands with an aristocratic feel

GARDENS TO VISIT

■ **Arlington Court, Devon**
The National Trust (01271 850296). Seven miles NE of Barnstaple, a mile off the A39. Open April to Nov 1 except Saturdays, 11am-5.30pm. £5.10.
LICHENS, which cling to the azaleas here, give some indication of the air purity. High above the nearby north Devon coast even the car park has good views. In the 25-acre park there is a collection of species Ash, some good hydrangeas, sweeps of spring bulbs and wildflowers. The formal garden is a relatively small Victorian creation set on a series of terraces, circular pool at the centre, working up towards a high wall and greenhouse with a cast-iron heron perched on top. The heron's cousins flank the stone steps up to the entrance of the garden, black grass snakes in their beaks. I think they look ghastly, but the tightly clipped series of rose arches which stand shoulder to shoulder are a triumph. When I visited (in February, when the garden was officially closed) the camellias were in bloom and the scent of *Daphne odera marginata* filled the glasshouse. The one-acre vegetable garden, which is open to the public, is in the process of being restored.

■ **Castle Bromwich Hall**
Garden Trust (0121-749 4100). Four miles east of Birmingham, one mile from J5 of M6 (exit northbound). Open today and Sept 26 for National Garden Scheme (2-6pm), £2. For further details please ring.
THE 18th-century craze for Capability Brown-style landscape swept away many 17th-century formal gardens, which is why Castle Bromwich Hall is so interesting. It escaped the wind of change because Sir Orlando Bridgeman, a descendant of the Bridgemans who made the formal gardens, married well and moved into a large estate. The hall gardens were left to fossilise until the beginning of this century when Lady Ida Bridgeman began a kind of restoration on them. The ten acres is sectioned off with fine brick walls, many of them rebuilt by the trust which has been set up to restore the garden. There are espaliered fruit trees, a holly maze, a walk of variegated holly, an archery ground, ponds, orchard, a garden of medicinal and culinary herbs, and a vegetable garden based on an early 17th-century design, with plant varieties which would have been available to contemporary gardeners.

NATIONAL TRUST



The three-level Victorian garden and conservatory at Arlington Court



The lake in Sandringham gardens



A heron sculpture at Arlington

■ **Sandringham Grounds, King's Lynn, Norfolk**
(01553 772675) Nine miles NE of King's Lynn. Open daily until July 26, 10.30am-5pm. £3.50, which includes entry to the museum but not the house. No dogs or picnics.
PLENTY of rhododendrons, specimen conifers, and a fine handkerchief tree and lawn spread over 60 acres. Some of the specimen oaks on the main lawn were planted by Queen Victoria. And there is a lakeside summerhouse which was built for Queen Alexandra. Other features include yew and box hedges and lime walks. A large rockery planted with a mass of dwarf conifers creates a grotto below. And the most striking area is that designed by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe.

JANE OWEN



■ Sow courgettes, cucumbers and outdoor tomatoes in individual small pots under glass.
■ Complete any pruning of evergreens, including any hard, rejuvenative pruning of holly and yew hedges.
■ Any large-flowered or cluster-flowered roses which have missed winter pruning should still be lightly cut back to some strong shoots, but with the season so advanced, it is kinder not to prune down hard now.
■ Lay new lawns, using turf or seed on well-prepared ground. Scarify and overseed thin lawns. Cut in pieces of turf to repair damaged lawn edges. Redefine lawn edges which have grown out of line with a half-moon cutter. With a hand-fork, or half-moon cutter, clean up grass on the vertical side of lawn edges.
■ Spray fruit trees as necessary for scab and aphids, avoiding spraying when the flowers are open.
■ Hoe regularly the bare ground between border plants and rows of vegetables, before weeds appear, rather than afterwards. File an edge on to very blunt hoes, to make them more efficient.



STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

Q I have a witch silhouette on the white wall of my parent's house. Are there any plants with black flowers or plants with names associated with witches? My friend Tanya says her garden produced two black tulips last year (it said red and yellow on the packet), but these are the only black flowers we know of so far. Can you help us create a magical section of our gardens? — W. Parker, Kettering, Northamptonshire

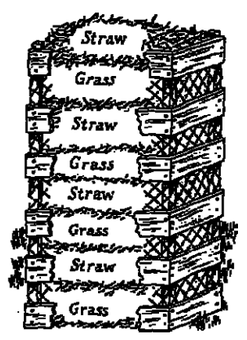
A Witchcraft by association is easy. Most of the dwarf Scots pines are cuttings from the "witches brooms" on the common *Pinus sylvestris*: do the names 'Doone Valley', 'Wishmoor' and 'Tanya' appeal? Stock up on the blackest tulip, 'Queen of the Night', and plant the black-leafed lily grass, *Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Nigrescens' with it. The suckering shrub yellow-wood, *Xanthorrhiza simpicissima*, has curious tassles of black-brown flowers, and good autumn colour. There is a marvellous herbaceous perennial called *Dracunculus vulgaris* which has tapering, mottled stems like liverish giraffe's legs, and in summer a vile maroon bucket of a flower. It stinks of rotten meat and is pollinated by flies.

If you want to see some chilling, deliciously creepy gardening achieved by design rather than planting, go to see the Mystic Pool at Groombridge Place, Kent.

TONY McSWEENEY



Q Can you tell me how to rot down grass clippings quickly? The council is closing the local tip to save money, so I shall need to compost eight refuse sacks of clippings every time I mow. — J. Oddey, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne.

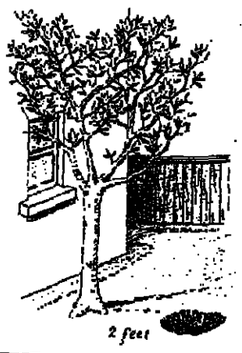


A With so much lawn to cut, you must have space to make a couple of wood-and-wire compost bins, or even just to make heaps. Grass clippings on their own are not easy to turn into good compost: they are all soft nitrogen and no carbon. If you were prepared to take all that lot to the tip, can I suggest you drive to a stables and buy some bales of straw and mix it in layers with the grass clippings. It will rot down far better. Also, treat it with Biotal Compost Maker for Grass, which speeds up decomposition. Above all, turn the heaps every few months to keep them aerated and the bacteria active. Maybe you should think about cutting some of the grass longer and less often.

Q Can I move a 12-year-old *Magnolia stellata* which is in the way of the window cleaner? If so, when? It needs to be 2ft further back. — A. Duncan, Manchester.

A It hardly seems worth disturbing a magnolia to move it 2ft. Can't you find a more flexible window cleaner? The time to move magnolias, if absolutely necessary, is in spring, just as the leaf buds begin to twitch and show signs of life. They do not like being moved when dormant in winter, and once the buds have opened, it is too late. Move it with a big rootball and the soil intact.

● *Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. We regret that any enclosures cannot be returned.*



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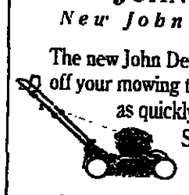
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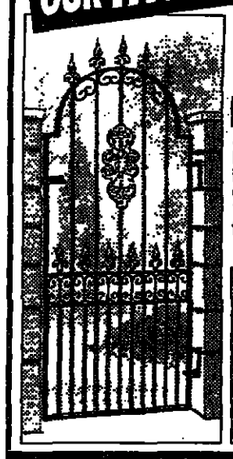
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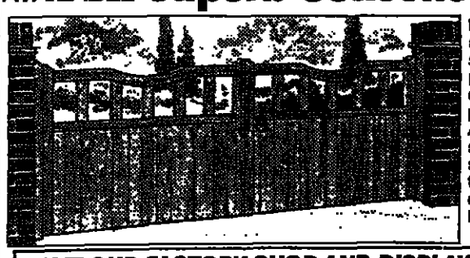
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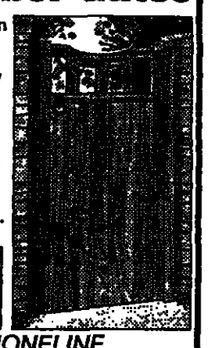
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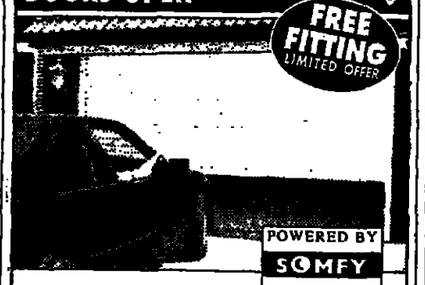
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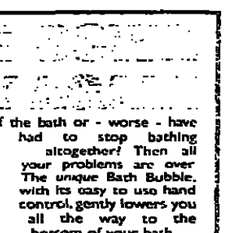
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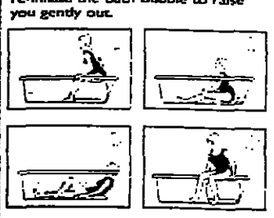
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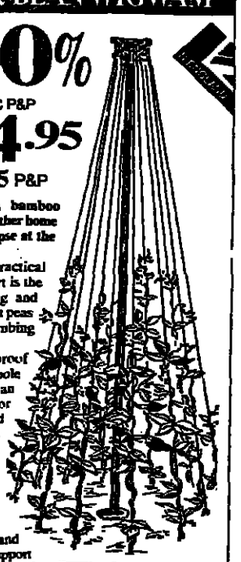


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Some of the earliest drawings of animals demonstrate how far we have come in our understanding of the natural world **Derwent May** reports

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON



Five-legged chicken, drawn by Ulisse Aldrovandi in 1642

BRUCE COLEMAN



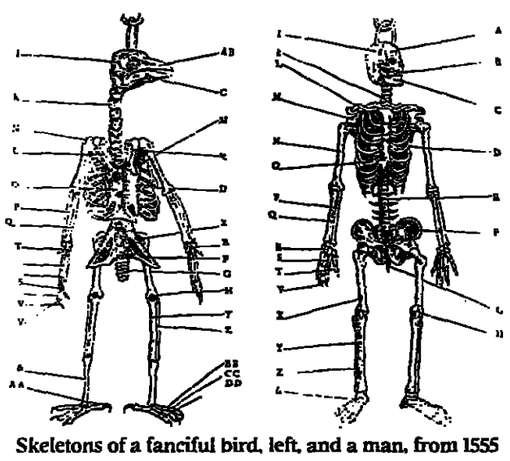
High-speed photography has illuminated subjects such as the movement of bird and insect wings, as this picture of an owl catching a mouse shows

Conserving past monsters of the natural world

The Zoological Society of London — the Zoo, in short — brings out this month the first issue of a new journal called *Animal Conservation*. It is a learned journal, devoted to such questions as "the population dynamics of the endangered Cape Sable seaside-sparrow" — but all its energies will be harnessed to the protection of animals in the environment, just as London Zoo's own energies are now.

Over the past 50 years or so, our knowledge of animals and the way they live has increased by leaps and bounds, and our current concern with conservation has plenty of information to draw on. But in the Zoo's library we can see how little was known 500 years ago. The Zoo has a fine collection of early printed books about animals, many of them with magnificent woodcuts.

Among them is the *History of Animals* by a Swiss, Conrad Gesner, which began appearing in 1551. The wonders he puts on show include a giraffe — or "camelopardali" — with spots and long legs, but also with horns like a goat, and a whale with crocodile jaws.



Skeletons of a fanciful bird, left, and a man, from 1555

Gesner had clearly never seen either a whale or a giraffe, and depended on the unreliable reports of travellers.

Even more remarkable creatures appear in Ulisse Aldrovandi's slightly later *History of Monsters*. Aldrovandi has a more recognisable giraffe, but he also has Siamese-twin pigs, a child with four ears, four eyes and a beard, and a man with a baby growing out of his stomach. The creatures are arranged not according to any idea of their family relationships, but simply in the alphabetical order of their Latin names.

Yet these were marvellous undertakings for their time, reviving with enormous vigour the attempts made by Aristotle and Pliny in classical times to survey the whole of the natural world.

The history of our slowly won knowledge of the birds of paradise is particularly interesting. A ship came into Seville harbour in 1522, with a cargo of spices and a present from the Sultan of Batjan, an island in the Moluccas, now part of Indonesia. This present was a collection of brilliantly coloured bird skins with long, silky feathers. They did not come from the Sultan's island but from the mysterious waters further south.

Most remarkable of all, these birds appeared to have neither flesh and bones nor feet. These had, of course, been removed in the skinning, but the idea caught hold that the birds were born without them. It was thought they never landed, but spent their whole lives floating in the air. A Spanish naturalist declared that they lived on dew and the nectar of spice trees, and that they never decayed. Perhaps, indeed, they were actually birds of paradise — and that is the name they have kept ever since. Gesner was one of those who believed the stories, and when another naturalist pointed out that the bones and feet had simply been extracted, very few people wanted to believe him.

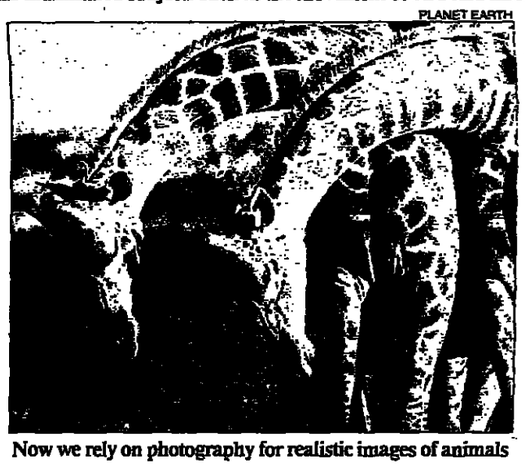
We now know that these birds are what are called Papuan birds of paradise, which have dazzling gold, orange and green plumage. They set many explorers off on the quest for them. As further specimens arrived from the East Indies, these "sylphs", as they were also called, were turned into ladies' hats.

It would seem that it was not until about 1700 that any European actually saw a living bird of paradise. The two outstanding 18th-century naturalists, Linnaeus, the first great classifier, and Buffon, both gave credence to the legends, and hardly anything was known for certain about the footless birds until the middle of the 19th century. It was an apothecary on a French ship who brought back the first accurate description of their way of life. He watched them in the trees of New Guinea, and recorded their calls and their mating dances. But, unlike the other searchers, he was not interested in their skins. An early conservationist, he decided they were too beautiful to shoot.

We now know most of the larger creatures of the world, though new species of bird are still occasionally discovered, and there are undoubtedly many insects and simpler life-forms still not known to us. Our knowledge of these species has become very refined, and our pictures of them very sophisticated.

High-speed photography has taught us about things like the movement of bird and insect wings. Underwater photography has revealed riches no diver could ever find. We have taught animals how to photograph themselves. Tiers have taken excellent self-portraits by walking into tripwires that set off flash-cameras in the trees — though this particular trick has been exploited by monkeys, who have learnt to activate the wires because, apparently, they like the flashes.

PLANET EARTH



Now we rely on photography for realistic images of animals



Conrad Gesner's 1551 'camelopardali', his view of a giraffe

Much of this new knowledge has been turned to conservation purposes. For example, an interesting discovery has been made about the decline in the number of song-thrushes. It would seem that the decline is due to an increased number of deaths among fledgling and first-year birds. Why this age-group has become so vulnerable is not known, but the discovery points the way to the next stage of research — just the sort of thing the new journal will concern itself with.

Meanwhile, one can visit the London Zoo's library in Regent's Park to see those spectacular early books. There are evening library tours, costing £7.50 per person, at which experts will talk about the books and the illustrations. The next one is on Wednesday, April 22. And just outside the door are the animals themselves.

● *The Library, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY (0171-449 6345). The tour includes refreshments.*

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CHANGING TIMES

More joy than joyriding

They knee-cap persistent joyriders in Northern Ireland — and *that* doesn't stop them. The police lay spiked grids in front of fleeing stolen cars — to little effect. The courts lock up boy-racers and death-riders, but they emerge more skilled at hotwiring cars and the flourishing art of "taking and driving away".

Britain is the champion of car crime. A car is broken into every 20 seconds, and rates of theft are twice as bad as the next worse country, America. Despite better locks and shatter-proof windows, 493,000 cars were stolen in 1996 (150,000 remain unrecovered).

Peter West, from the Ilderton Motor Project in Deptford, southeast London — a pioneering anti-joyriding scheme — knows prison is no answer for the young guns of New Cross, a one-time black spot of car-crime.

"Eighty per cent of auto offenders reoffend after custody," says Mr West, project director. "They become criminalised, pick up tips, and come out believing they're villains."

Ilderton diverts joyrider interest in cars from criminal to the legitimate. For a few of the 19 local lads (aged 13-24), the banger racing project is an alternative to custody. Some on the scheme have stolen cars to drive home from prison; others have taken ambulances, a JCB, and a train from New Cross Station. Most, though, are there voluntarily, keen to avoid the undertow of the local jump-a-car culture.

Deptford's joyriders start young. Some begin at six. Many have their first stuttering taste behind someone else's wheel at 10, 11 or 12. Their favourite targets, West says, are sporty coupés — Astras, Golf GTIs — and Fords, including Sierras, Granadas, Capris and Cortinas. Souped-up Ford Cosworths are an ultimate prize.



Former boy-racers working on bangers

At the motor project, abandoned cars donated by the police are stripped, converted into bangers, customised, and raced. All youngsters pitch in, nothing is spared. Glass, dashboards and radiators are ripped out; petrol tanks are moved and modified; roll bars and racing belts installed. In the process, offenders learn teamwork, self-control and patience. "They arrive very self-orientated, irresponsible, immature and excitement-minded," West says. "They want everything instantly." Instead, for three months they work for between two and five nights a week before getting a race. "They learn to live for the sake of a promise," he says.

Free-for-all banger racing ("Sumo wrestling with cars," Perry says) is the skilled and aggressive tonic many at Ilderton crave. For once, bodywork dents and crumpled metal become a responsibility. Noses are broken, collar bones sprung.

"Putting kids on a race track teaches them they're vulnerable," West says. "They also realise that Ladas, Beetles and Ford Anglias are lethal weapons."

Everyone at Ilderton denies the project is treats for bad boys. They argue the "lock 'em up" attitude is flawed. While custody costs £700 a week — four-fifths reoffend within 12 months — a project such as theirs costs £100,000 a year to run — £40 a week per youngster — with 43 per cent never reoffending.

West says: "A 1996 Home Office report says the project saves Deptford three times its total running cost in terms of reduced police, medical, insurance and accident bills. We're more effective than prison."

The project appears to be working for Perry, who wants to go on to something in the motor trade. "I could have gone either way," he says openly in his greasy overalls. "Now I'm obsessed with banger racing. I wouldn't joyride these days. I've got too much to lose."

ALEX WIJERATNE

هكذا من الأصل

'When it comes to aphids, my instincts are those of Saddam Hussein. I don't negotiate. I simply reach for the nerve gas'

Small, horrid and in my garden

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

When we got back to London, everything looked completely different. When we left, the buds on the hawthorn hedge were just breaking. The weather may have been mild but, as far as the garden was concerned, it was still the fag end of winter. And then off we went for a week to Devon, and although it was mild enough while we were there, the weathermen kept saying that the rest of the country was in the grip of foul wintry conditions, so I was quite unprepared for the metamorphosis that had taken place in our absence.

The front garden had disappeared behind a thicket of green. The hawthorn hedge looked like a kind of large, shaggy-coated animal. There were bluebells in flower, and great arching stems of dicentra, and forget-me-nots, and wild strawberries, and on the peony a green and bronze bud the size of gobstopper.

Hacking a path to the front door, I noticed that it was not only the flora that had been thriving in our absence. The Gloire de Dijon was covered in bright coral buds, each of which was edged with a frilly throng of jade green aphids.

Now, when it comes to aphids, my instincts are those of Saddam Hussein. I don't negotiate. I simply reach for the nerve gas. I know that this is wrong. Charles's mother once gave me a serious lecture on the subject. Aphids and white fly and red spider mite and all their disgusting friends and relations, she said, are to be treated kindly but firmly. Squash them between finger and thumb, or sprinkle them with Fairy Liquid, but on no account was I to resort to my illicit stockpile of Rose Clear. It was disrespectful to the garden's eco system.

She was quite right, of course. And I am amazed at how much of an eco system we have on the Trafalgar Road. There are bluetits in the buddleia, blackbirds in the honeysuckle, house martens under the eaves, a squashed frog outside the front gate and, most thrilling of all, a pair of wrens in the clematis.

I was doing the washing up after breakfast when I first saw those wrens, and I froze like a statue in yellow rubber gloves. They had clearly come visiting because of my aphids — they were scoffing them like Alexander devouring jelly beans — and I would very much like them to stay for ever. On the other hand, I would also like to see some proper flowers on my roses. What *am* I to do? It is all very well for Charles's mother to say that I must eschew toxins. Charles, at 42, is more or less able to amuse himself, leaving his mother with sufficient leisure to conduct her search-and-destroy sorties. But I have no such freedom. Unless there is some ferocious activity from a ladybird posse I think it will have to be the Saddam solution.

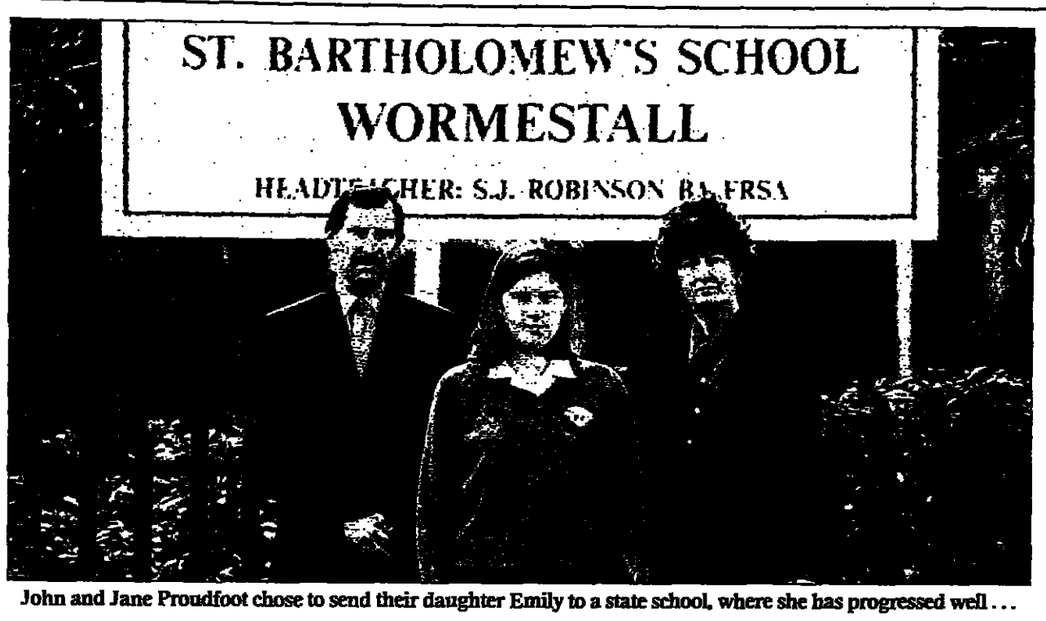
Anyway, I was trying hard to ignore the activity of a couple of million bright green bodies as I put my key in the lock. "Look!" I said to Alexander, "Are you sure we've come to the right house? Everything looks quite different." As it happened, we had been talking in Devon about change. It began with the house, where we have been staying for five years, and where there has recently been a change of housekeeper and, in consequence, a change of atmosphere, palpable as you step through the door.

Then there was the small pub where, last year, a kind, shy young man had let us sit by the fire and served us a lunch so splendid that even Alexander abandoned his usual gambit when faced with a pub lunch — which is to assume the expression of Mrs Sidney Webb on being offered a stiff one, dearie, by Rosa Lewis.

This year there was a posh lady in a baseball cap behind the bar, who banished us to a back room and produced for lunch a piece of brill so ancient that it put me in a towering rage for the rest of the afternoon. "So you see," I said to Alexander "Nothing stays the same, and it is best if you don't expect it to."

We were down on the beach, just finishing a kind of re installation. On a large, flat rock we had assembled a seashore sculpture — people and tables with food on them and beds with seaweed sheets. It was amazingly beautiful and now the tide was lapping around our gumboots ready to sweep it away. Naturally, I had forgotten the camera. I always forget the camera. But, in any case, if you are playing with a person, you can't be skipping about, recording the occasion for posterity. That, presumably, is what daddies are for.

"We could take it home, perhaps," said Alexander. We thought about it. "I think it is beautiful because of where it is," I said. "We'd better let the sea have it back. Everything has its end. One of these days you won't want to come to Devon any more, you know." "No, *no*," said my son, with a passion that made me wish I could get on with my original plan, and have six little boys just like him. "I will never not want to come to Devon with you."



John and Jane Proudfoot chose to send their daughter Emily to a state school, where she has progressed well...



...while their son Oliver has moved from a state school to a private prep school and back to a comprehensive

INS

Privately we feel we ought to go public

Should it be the local comprehensive or the hideously expensive boarding school for your child? **Fred Redwood** talks to parents

Julie Lloyd has a problem. Working as an unpaid classroom helper at her daughter Gail's school, she witnesses every day the lack of time the teacher is able to give to the brighter children. She does not blame the teacher; indeed, she sympathises with her having to deal with 34 six-year-olds, many with learning difficulties or behaviour problems. But that is little comfort as she watches her own daughter sitting bored in the corner. There is a solution to the problem, but it goes contrary to Julie's deep-seated belief that private education bestows an unfair advantage on the children of the well-heeled.

Mrs Lloyd is lucky. She can, at a pinch, afford the £2,300 a term it will cost to send Gail as a day pupil to a prep school where she will be in a class of only about 15 pupils. Gail's chances of academic success will be improved. Only 7 per cent of children attend independent schools but they supply more than 25 per cent of university students.

The choice of private or public sector education is faced in thousands of homes every year. Political correctness and the enormous cost of private education are not the only factors. Take, for example, the case of Jules and Sally Beckett and their son Justin, who was identified from an early age as dyslexic. The couple sought help for Justin at a local prep school, a decision which Mrs Beckett, a former comprehensive school teacher, does not regret.

Justin now has a reading age way above that of his contemporaries thanks to the individual help that he received. However, this year the school relocated and the Becketts were faced with the choice of finding another prep school or enrolling Justin, now 11, in a comprehensive. They decided to keep him in the private sector.

"Justin is now used to classes of 15," Mrs Beckett says, "so he'd find coping in a group of 30-plus in a comprehensive extremely difficult. Also he would be considered very advanced in a state school. There's a good chance he'd initially be bored and demotivated by the standard of the work set.

"As a teacher I have witnessed first-hand the boys' culture of 'It's not cool to be clever'. It worried me that Justin would be vulnerable to these influences."

Having decided to stick with private education, Mrs Beckett found choosing a new school difficult. She had several in her locality but with only two years left for Justin at prep school, the nature of the public school which he would move on to at 13 also entered the equation. She did not want him to attend one of the more exclusive schools because she worried that coming from a comfortable but fairly "normal" background could cause him to be socially isolated. Nor did she want him to board.

"We just want Justin to go somewhere which prepares him for life in the outside world. I think we have made the right choice — but who knows? We were first-time buyers in the private sector and that makes things more difficult for us. This has been one of the most stressful decision-making processes we have been through."

It is also possible to move to the private sector at the sixth-form stage, as Penny and Windsor Jones from Basingstoke did with their son Adam, a talented rugby player. To help him realise his potential they sent him to the sixth form at Millfield — a school renowned for its sports stars, as well as its fees for boarders of more than £4,500. He was successful there and eventually became a professional rugby player with Richmond. When younger son David came to the sixth-form stage, Mrs Jones faced a dilemma. "He wasn't nearly as good a rugby player as Adam but we couldn't deny him the opportunity we had given his brother; it could have led to ill-feeling."

Jane Proudfoot is unusual in having switched her son Oliver from the public to the private sector, then back again — all before he had even reached the age of 11.

"We simply reacted to different circumstances," she says. "Our daughter Emily was young for her year at primary school and she was constantly stimulated by the work there. But Oliver was the oldest in his class and he found the work too easy. He was bored and he was becoming a bit of a nuisance. So we opted for a local prep school. We felt guilty because it seemed that we valued Oliver's education above Emily's, as he alone was going private. But it wasn't like that at all."

Mrs Proudfoot was delighted with the standards at the private school. Oliver made excellent progress — so why return to the public sector? "It was another difficult decision but basically it was for social reasons. Oliver was losing contact with local friends and keeping in touch with chums at the private school which, when most of them lived a long distance away, was impossible. It made the holidays lonely for him. I liked the local comprehensive so we moved him back to the state sector," Mrs Proudfoot explains.

Ultimately, perhaps, it is the happiness of the child that counts above all — as most parents would no doubt agree.

The news about sex: don't do it

Schools are targeting the very young with a definitive message, **Josa Young** says



REX

Teenagers seem to be reluctant to take contraceptive advice

For teenagers, sex is one of the most exciting highs on offer — with the added advantage that is costs nothing. And children today are bombarded by the media with approving images of adult sexuality. With taboos removed, more and younger children begin to have sex — and babies and sexually transmitted diseases. You can hardly open a paper without seeing a picture of a smirking couple. She has a swollen belly. He's 12, enjoys football, and is taking a day off school for the birth. If there is no reason to wait for marriage, why wait for anything?

In spite of all the sex education forums, summits and task forces — and the millions of pounds of health budget money spent on contraceptive services, counsellors and drop-in centres — teenage conceptions, which plummeted in 1975 when contraception became freely available on the NHS, have risen for 11 out of the past 15 years.

No matter how many condoms are rolled down educationally over carrots, young teenagers remain hopeless at contraception. About 40,000 teenage girls have abortions every year. Between 1992 and last year, the proportion of children admitting to underage sex had risen from around 20 per cent to around 30 per cent. As for sexually transmitted diseases, let's just start with the 39,000, and growing, new teenage cases of chlamydia every year — a relatively symptomless infection that often leads to infertility if left untreated. The results don't come cheap for health authorities but, until now, sex education was the business of the Department of Education and Employment, not Health.

At last, co-operation between the two departments is on the cards. Tessa Jowell is the latest health minister to tackle teenage pregnancy. Last month she suggested that, "if we can get boys to be more in touch with their feelings, it would be a marker for progress".

"Boys shouldn't so much get in touch with as manage their feelings," says Tim Hull, consultant to the North Essex Health Promotion, which is spending a great deal of money on a unique and effective approach to sex education. Developed by Drs John Tripp, Fran Phelps and Alex Mellanby at Exeter University's Department of Child Health, the A PAUSE experimental programme aims not to teach contraception, but to discourage underage sex altogether.

In a classroom at Colne Community School in Brightlingsea, five attractive 16 and 17-year-olds stand up in front of a horseshoe of alert 14-year-olds. They introduce themselves in a well-rehearsed routine. "I'm Ben." "I'm Charlie." "I'm Sarah..." Young voices, unembarrassed and well-informed, call out answers to questions about whether it is worth having sex.

These teenagers are being taught by their senior peers how to reject sexual advances in lessons called "the power to be ME". In a mirror of the anti-drugs campaign, they are helped to "just say no". While encouraged to feel positive about their developing sexuality, they develop skills to help curb their impulses and to "postpone acting just on feelings".

Two "peers" take chairs in front of the class and demonstrate a scenario of one teenager pressurising another for sex. Then peer swaps with pupil and, with lots of encouragement and a blush or two, the pupil says "No" firmly, and means it. They cover the principles of assertiveness. Look your partner in the eye when you say no; if that doesn't work, walk off.

A PAUSE seems to be achieving its objectives. Results published in the *British Medical Journal* show a clear decrease in sexual activity among pupils taught using the programme, when compared with controls. The children displayed increased knowledge, and the confidence to manage not only relationships but also a wide range of other challenging situations. Pernicious myths — such as girls getting a "bad reputation" if they choose to have sex — evaporated in an atmosphere of openness. Throughout the programme, teachers, parents, school governors and students were asked what they thought. The support was overwhelming.

The cost benefits to the local health authority are not immediately apparent. Prevention is always hard to assess economically. A school using the programme that has had two teenage pregnancies in a year might believe it has failed — until it considers that there might have been five without it. Research demonstrates that teenage girls often bitterly regret having sex too early. These teenagers show every sign of being able to make informed choices about contraception when the right time comes for them.

It is not possible to quantify the happiness that children will enjoy if they are allowed to grow up at their own pace, gain confidence and resist peer pressure and misinformation. "Having sex at 12 or 13 robs you of childhood, and it is the job of parents and teachers to safeguard childhood," says Tessa Jowell. In the modern world, you can't safeguard childhood by shrouding it in ignorance. Knowledge is power, and the A PAUSE programme is a proven tool.

● *A PAUSE is based at the Department of Child Health, Post-Graduate Medical School, University of Exeter, Exeter EX2 5SQ (01392 403157).*



Sam had been sexually abused. At 15 he was arrested and held on remand. Locked in a cell 23 hours a day, he endured constant threats from the older lags. It's unlikely Sam will get a jail sentence, but his time inside has taught him all about intimidation, theft and mugging.

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WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

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PICTORIAL PRESS

Yul Brynner-type photography aficionados can head for Dartington Hall, Devon (May 8-10)



Sign up for a course on the cigar-chomping Churchill and pick up a few handy hints on leadership, in Essex (May 8-10)

APRIL 24-26

Scottish yoga weekend in the Trossachs. At Lendrick Lodge, Callander, Perthshire, with the Ruth White Yoga Centre (0181-644 0309). From £108.

Motor racing in single-seat racing cars. An introductory course with personal instruction and solo laps. With Anglian Activity Breaks, Norwich (01602 700770). Price £120, accommodation available.

Reading Latin; A jazz weekend; D.H. Lawrence and E.M. Forster; An introduction to world religions. Subjects under discussion at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price per course £120, inclusive.

Upstairs, downstairs: life in an English country house; Buddhism and philosophy; Ancient Egyptian religion. At Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). From £105 residential, £79 non-residential.

Baskets, bunches and boxes. A flower-arranging weekend at Horncastle College, Horncastle, Lincs (01507 522449). Price £86 full board.

MAY 1-3

Spring into summer. A four-day health and fitness weekend, with yoga, exercises, workouts, pool sessions and line dancing at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, Sussex (01243 670392). Price £218 residential, £144 non-residential.

Surfing, windsurfing, ski surfing, kayaking, Canadian canoeing, sailing, climbing. At Outdoor Adventure, Bude, Cornwall (01288 361312). Weekend rates from £123, inclusive of full board, tuition and equipment.

Advanced bridge; *Don Giovanni*; Patchwork and quilting; Architectural clues. At the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, Gwent (01495 333777). Price per course £88.

Life and landscape painting; China painting; Bridge; Continental lacemaking. At the Horncastle College, Horncastle, Lincs (01507 522449). Price per course from £86, inclusive.

Learn to play the mandolin in a weekend; Music for mandolin ensembles; Anglo-Saxon literature. At the Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01992 813027). Price per course £85.

MAY 8-10

Have a go at rock climbing. At the Castle Head Field Centre, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria (015395 34300). Price £120 residential, £96 non-residential, including equipment and instruction.

Creative Writing. At the Carberry, Musselburgh, near Edinburgh (0131-665 3488). Price £65.

Glass — from the Renaissance to the present day; Literary prize winners. At the Maryland College, Woburn, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire (01525 292901). Prices from £99 residential and £76 non-residential.

Spring gardens; Photography; Embroidery. At Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon (01803 866688). Prices from £150 residential and £130 non-residential.

Bird songs and calls; Watercolours for absolute beginners; Microscopy for beekeepers. At the Flatford Mill Field Centre, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). Prices per course £105 residential, £85 non-residential.

Spring birds. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120, inclusive.

A festival of Verdi; The Tao of clowning; Still-life painting — Cézanne; Landscape and garden history; An introduction to home interior design. At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890296). Weekend prices from £159 residential and £69 non-residential.

An introduction to croquet; Relax with raffia; Flowers in watercolour; Bridge for improvers. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Pulborough, West Sussex (01798 865306). Prices from £114 residential and £90 non-residential.

Cavaliers and Roundheads, a weekend on the English Civil War. At Wedgewood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price £70, inclusive.

Winston Churchill — a study in leadership. At Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01992 813027). Price £85, inclusive.

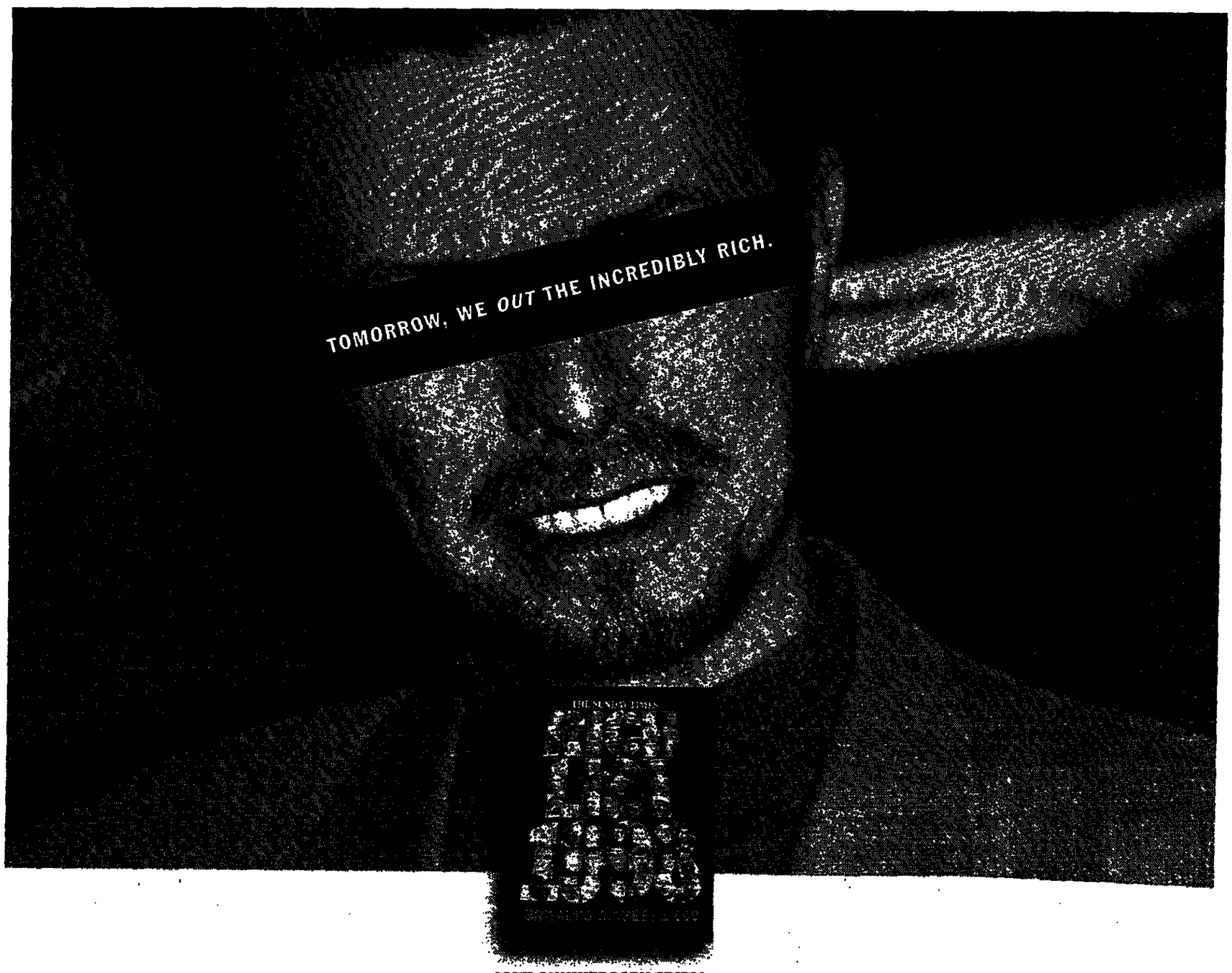
A pottery weekend in Leominster. With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price £144. Also an **Air experience weekend** flying in helicopter, balloon, microlight and glider, £325, inclusive.

Winston Churchill — a study in leadership. At the Wensum Lodge, King Street, Norwich (01603 666021). Price per course £84.

Rock climbing, mountaineering and canoeing, walking and scrambling in the Peak District. With Peak Odysseys of Eccleshall (01785 850314). From £120 for two days.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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هكذا في الأصل

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Real-life Lassies to the rescue

Mountain rescue teams are using family pets to help save lives, finds John Young



JOHN PAUL

Search and rescue dogs need to be familiar with helicopter winches. Hugo, front, with handler Alan Kirk, and Bracken, with Darren Streatham, are about to go flying

High on the slopes of Glen Etive, in the Scottish Highlands, a distant figure in a bright yellow jacket moves across the foot of a sheer rockface. Below him, leaping and weaving from side to side, harder to spot against the background of boulders and heather, is a dog in search of the scent from another human hidden somewhere on the hillside.

Kenny Lindsay, a policeman from the village of Glencoe, and Shadow, an 18-month-old German shepherd, are taking part in the annual trials of the Highland section of the Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA). The object of the trials is to assess whether dogs have been trained by their handlers to the level of skills required to be part of a mountain rescue team.

On the road below, Les Silkowski is sitting in his car with Tango, a two-year-old Belgian shepherd-Border collie cross, awaiting their turn on the hill. If Tango does his stuff, by locating two volunteers acting as "casualties" who have supposedly lost their way or injured themselves in the mountains, he will graduate from novice to fully fledged rescue dog.

Although, like Lindsay, Silkowski happens to be a policeman, a member of the Strathclyde Police mountain rescue team, he is anxious to point out that Tango is not a police dog but his own domestic pet. The same goes for all the dogs owned by members of SARDA, most of whom are civilian volunteers, men and women who know the mountains and their dangers, and who are prepared to be called out at all hours — and in any weather — to save lives.

The use of dogs for mountain rescue goes back to at least the 17th century, when the monks of the St Bernard Hospice, on the border of Switzerland and Italy, employed them as guides to locate travellers who had lost their way or been buried in avalanches. In the First World War dogs were trained by the Red Cross to find wounded soldiers on the battlefield during lulls in the fighting, identifying those who were still alive by their scent. During the London Blitz, in the Second World War, they were used to trace people buried under rubble in bombed buildings.

In 1963, Hamish MacInnes, leader of the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, was invited by the International Red Cross to observe a course in Switzerland for training dogs to rescue avalanche victims. He realised that the training methods could be adapted to the hills and moors of upland Britain, where avalanches were rarer but where weather conditions could be equally extreme and climbers and hikers frequently got into trouble. SARDA came into being two years later, and today, in Scotland alone, comprises 23 separate teams totalling some 700 members and their dogs; there are also branches in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It can best be described as the inland equivalent of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, manned entirely by volunteers, receiving no government funding, yet working closely with the police and the Royal Air Force. In Scotland, all mountain rescue operations are co-ordinated by the police who decide what resources are needed and in most cases call on SARDA for assistance.

Although SARDA is happy to train dogs for both the police and the RAF, it has become increasingly accepted that "uniformed" dogs are best restricted to crime prevention, drugs detection and guard duties, leaving mountain rescue work to the "civilians".

Alwyn Jones, honorary secretary of SARDA's Highland section, is a Welshman who moved to Scotland to work in local government. Some 15 years ago, while living on the island of Arran, in the Firth of Clyde, he was was taking part in a search for a missing climber. "We were using the traditional method, about 15 of us strung out in a line combing the hillside back and forth. Then suddenly we saw this dog which found the person in less than half an hour. I thought, blow me, this is the way to do it, instead of tramping up and down with a heavy pack on your back."

Jones rejects the idea that most of the demands on the rescue services arise from foolhardiness. Even experienced mountaineers can get into trouble, and most walkers and climbers are far more knowledgeable and better equipped than a generation ago, he points out. Besides, much of the RNLI's work involves rescuing amateur sailors rather than professional seamen.

Outside the Kings House hotel, a lonely outpost in the spectacular wilderness that surrounds the main road from Glasgow to Fort William, Fern, a two-year-old Border collie, is being initiated into the rescue business. Her handler lets her play with a squeaky toy before a colleague carries it off and hides with it behind a rock a couple of hundred yards away. Released from her lead she quickly picks up his scent and is reunited with her plaything.

"For rescue work you have to look for a dog with plenty of stamina," Mark Shewry, one of the association's RAF members, points out. "The most popular breeds are collies, German shepherds and labradors. They must also have a playful temperament. If they don't enjoy playing games, they can't be trained."

Out on the Black Corries John Armstrong, one of seven assessors appointed for the weekend's trials, is keeping a close eye on a patch of boggy moorland, about a mile square, where Rudi, a three-year-old German shepherd, is being put through his paces. He will be expected to find two "casualties" in the space of about an hour, a task which would probably take six humans about three times as long.

"Dogs do have their limitations," he concedes. "You obviously can't use them on steep rock faces where they would be fighting for their own survival.

"They're not so good in forests, or in very hot weather when there's no wind to allow them to pick up the scent. But in the right conditions on open ground they are incomparable. They're brilliant at night, because they're not relying on sight to find their quarry. Humans can't work in the dark."

On the Sunday morning, a helicopter arrives to practise winching the dogs to the ground and back up again. On rescue operations all the dogs wear harnesses which also allow them to carry lights at night and, equally importantly, let them know that they are on duty.

"As soon as they see the harness, they think 'Ah, we're playing this game, are we? We know what this is all about'," Jones says. "But I also think they can tell the difference between an exercise, like this weekend, and the real thing. The adrenalin is different."

Happily, "the real thing" does not occur too often. For most of the year these dogs live lives no different from any ordinary family pets.

But, like their human owners, when the call comes they are trained and able to respond to it.

● *Donations to the Search and Rescue Dog Association should be sent to Alwyn Jones, Tour Croft, Fetterangus, Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire AB42 8LX.*



Les Silkowski watches his dog Tango locate a "casualty", Silkowski's son Kenneth

ADOPT ME

REGGIE and Mabel are two ten-year-old chinchillas who were brought in to the Felixstowe centre when *their owner developed an* allergic reaction. They are nervous, but with handling will become more friendly. Ideally, Reggie and Mabel need to stay together. If you would like to adopt them, *please contact Malcolm* Scrivener at the Blue Cross, 01394 283254.



Reggie and Mabel: edgy

A VET WRITES

Q How can I stop my cat scratching the stair carpet? I've tried using repellent sprays and hitting him with a rolled-up copy of *The Times* when I can catch him doing it, but most of the damage occurs while I am at work. Please help.

A The Devil finds work for idle hands and claws. If your cat is left alone for several hours at a time he has to find something to do — and the carpet suffers. Try to redirect his energies rather than using *The Times* as a guided missile. Offer him a scratching post in the shape of a log of wood — with the bark on — scented with cat-nip. Cats dislike walking on aluminium foil. A sheet of this covering the bottom three steps will protect the stair carpet and make him avoid that area. The best solution of all could be a cat-flap to allow your cat to come and go as he wishes and occupy himself exploring the great outdoors.

Q What is elbow dysplasia? I'm thinking about getting an Irish wolfhound but a "doggie" friend tells me this can be a problem in the breed. Please explain.

A Elbow dysplasia (ED) occurs in a number of breeds — mainly the bigger ones — when parts of the bones making up the elbow don't fuse together completely as the puppy grows up. Detached bits of bone in and around the elbow joint can cause osteoarthritis and a painful lameness. There is an inherited predisposition to this problem, and the British Veterinary Association and the Kennel Club launched a screening programme last month to combat this. Three X-rays of each elbow are evaluated by a panel of veterinary scrutineers who grade the elbow from 0-3. The lower the grade, the better the elbow. It will take a few months before puppies bred from certified "good elbow" parents are available, but if you can wait that's the best way of keeping clear of trouble.

Q We have nearly an acre of lawn, and I would love to see three or four peacocks strutting across it. I have set peafowl eggs under broody hens for the past two years and they have hatched very well — five chicks last year. But at six weeks of age they developed diarrhoea, lost weight and all died within a fortnight. A post-mortem reported "blackhead". What is this and how can we prevent it?

A Blackhead is caused by a single-cell parasite *Histomona meleagridis*. It's carried by the poultry pin-worm, Heterakis. Adult poultry carry blackhead and pin-worms but show few signs of ill-health. The foster-mother hens are almost certainly the source of the infection. Worm all your laying fowl and treat them for blackhead at least a month before they sit on the eggs. Try turkey feed containing anti-blackhead additives and house the pea chicks on ground that hasn't been used by poultry for the past year.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. He regrets that he cannot reply to letters personally.*

The osteopath with a taste for the wild life

Andrew Morgan meets the man who heals animals' wings and limbs with his hands



JUSTIN WILLIAMS

Tony Nevin manipulates the bruised right wing of a sparrowhawk

A badger now running around Gloucestershire should be grateful that Tony Nevin was on hand when a car knocked it down. Without his expertise as Britain's only wildlife osteopath, it would almost certainly have died. Although nothing was broken, the animal's rear legs were not functioning after a blow to the spine. It needed Mr Nevin's skilled manipulation to ease the circulation, otherwise the limbs would have seized up for good.

Mr Nevin spends most of his time working on humans at his surgeries in Cheltenham and Stroud, but he is increasingly absorbed with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Rescue Centre, based at Harbury College, an agricultural training establishment near Gloucester. Last year, the centre dealt with 2,333 patients, with Mr Nevin working his magic on a range of animals from the tiniest wren to deer and birds of prey, but also foxes, swans, bats and even reptiles.

He helped to set up the centre three years ago with Alan Brockbank, a former RSPCA inspector, and Alan's wife, Louise. The college allows access to its facilities and lets them use five acres of woodland for enclosures. Until then, Mr Nevin had used osteopathy on pets for the Cheltenham vet, Guy Mewha-Williams, who thought his charges might respond more quickly to manipulation than drugs and surgery. Wild animals were a natural progression.

Osteopathy is proving a vital aid to recovery. Manipulating bone and soft tissue has cut the rehabilitation period by two-thirds, reducing stress and leading to a 70 per cent success rate. Badgers respond best and owls and bats also have impressive recovery times.

Crucially, this rapid turnaround, under the supervision of the Malvern vet Peter Creber, also means that animals can readjust more easily to the wild. Badgers, in particular, need to get back to their own kind as quickly as possible to re-assume their social position. As with humans, osteopathy helps to improve circulation and lymph drainage, while maintaining the nerve connections. To achieve this, it is vital to balance the muscular and skeletal system.

On this particular day, the exquisite eyes of a sparrowhawk are fixed on Mr Nevin as he manipulates its bruised right wing, while Mr Brockbank has the arduous task of holding it and risking pecks and damage from its needle-sharp talons. The female bird was injured when it flew into a domestic aviary at Andoversford while trying to attack a budgie and was unable to fly away. The bird is due for release soon near to where it was found.

There is also a rather frisky barn owl, struck on the wing as it fed on a dead rabbit in the road. The third patient is a male swan which split a tendon after flying into a pylon. It is surprisingly calm as its wing is gently rotated.

Mr Nevin, an osteopath for ten years, was always confident that successful techniques on people would work on animals. "The wing of a bird is just an adapted arm," he says. "However, birds have a highly vascular system and their bone structure is different from mammals. So the amount of pressure applied is tempered so that tissues are not overstressed. All the time, there's feedback through my fingers, with tissues telling me what's right and what's wrong. With a bruised wing, I'm looking for relaxation of the muscles so there's good lymphatic drainage and blood flow to repair the tissues."

In the main, animals such as raptors are not aggressive. "Through my hands, I must convey that I'm non-threatening and they respond to it instantly," says Mr Nevin. "One of the first things we realised — and the most fascinating — was that wild animals recover from injury even more quickly than domestic pets. They, in turn, respond twice as quickly as humans."

Safe methods of restraint are used, but never sedatives. An animal's head can be covered to keep it calm and the heart beat monitored to see if it is frightened. If so, nothing is done for a few moments to let it relax.

Mr Nevin has used his skills at Twycross Zoo, Leicestershire, and recently lectured at zoos in the United States on elephant osteopathy. He has also worked on tapirs, chimps, wolves and a cheetah with lower-back problems who leant against him purring and dribbling, and was reluctant for him to stop.

To expand the field, Mr Nevin recently delivered a lecture to Wildaid, which links rescue centres, and he is trying to set up workshops to teach the basics to another osteopath and volunteers. The Gloucestershire centre is not open to the public because it was felt it would be unfair to the animals. Opening would solve cash problems but tin-rattling is still the main income after the National Lottery refused a grant.

Mr Nevin feels no sense of loss when creatures are set free. "It's wonderful because they never thank you — and that's great," he says. "As a species, we do so much harm. It's good to be able to give something back."

● *Tony Nevin can be contacted on 0831 759339.*

FINDING A LEGGY FRIEND

IF YOU ARE looking for your ideal partner and, wary of leaving future domestic bliss to chance, you contact a Woking-based dating agency. Back comes a questionnaire: Were you the boss in your last relationship? Would you describe yourself as assertive? Will you be hoping to breed? Within weeks you could be in a new partnership — with a dog.

Dial-a-Dog is Britain's first human/canine "dating agency" aimed at matching a would-be owner with the breed best suited to their personality and lifestyle. "Everyone I knew would consult me when they thought of buying a dog," explains Beverley Cuddy, who set up the agency, "so I decided to find a way of holding people's hand when they take the plunge."

Would-be owners who ring the freephone number are sent the questionnaire and their answers are forwarded to an adviser who will recommend the breeds most suited to their circumstances. Cuddy has assembled more than 200 specialist advisers and 50 general volunteers who will explain, for instance, why you don't want two springer spaniels if you are two full-time GPs. "They feel they're doing a service to protect dogs and owners," she says.

Once you have your shortlist of suitable breeds, the service can put you in touch with relevant breeders. But Cuddy advises people against going to look at puppies until they know exactly what they want. "Even the most hard-hearted person finds it difficult to walk away from a cute pup. A year later you could find that you have a fully-grown Siberian husky in your basement flat."

ANNA TIMS

● *Dial-a-Dog is a free service on 0500 011455.*

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Advertisement

New research finds that anaerobic exercise burns over 500% more fat than aerobic exercise

By John Whitehead, Media Services

(Canton, OHIO, USA) If you want to lose weight slowly, do aerobic exercise. If you want to lose weight fast, do anaerobic exercise.

Many studies have shown that anaerobic exercise burns more calories and thus more fat than aerobic exercise. But, a Colorado State University study has proven that anaerobic exercise actually burns more than 5 times more calories than aerobic exercise (see Figure 1).

Also, aerobic exercise can typically burn 25% muscle and 75% fat for body energy. Anaerobic exercise burns 100% fat for body energy. The reason for this will be given shortly.

One hour of anaerobic exercise is worth more than 5 hours of aerobic exercise to burn calories and thus fat and anaerobic exercise brings you many other fitness and health benefits that aerobic exercise does not.

Actually, in many cases, anaerobic exercise can burn as much as 7 times more calories than aerobic exercise if you match the way many typical people do aerobic exercises versus doing proper anaerobic exercises. And there is yet another factor that could cause anaerobic exercise to burn over 10 times more fat than aerobic exercise.

Technically, the difference between aerobic and anaerobic exercise is this: Aerobic exercise is that which causes the body to utilize oxygen to create energy. Anaerobic exercise is that which

Weight loss and fitness facts

causes the body to create energy without oxygen because the demand for energy is so fast and large that the body must create it from numerous natural body chemicals. Aerobic exercise is generally associated with non-resistance exercises such as aerobic classes, jogging, treadmills, ski machines, air gliders, exercise bikes and various sports such as racquetball. Anaerobic exercise is associated with resistance exercise especially using weights which in turn consumes many calories and builds muscle and bones and in the process also rejuvenates organs.

But for the person that wants to lose weight, it is anaerobic exercise that will give them the most fat burned for every minute of exercise versus aerobic exercise.

Also, it is a myth that anaerobic exercise done with weights will put bulky male-type muscles on women. Women do not have the hormones for that to happen. The female bodybuilders seen on TV bodybuilding contests get those muscles by taking hormonal supplements and doing super extensive weight training that is not necessary to achieve weight loss and a well-shaped body. Women can add muscle without increasing size because muscle weighs so much more than fat. Women will actually reduce their size.

Anaerobic exercise fatigues and breaks down some of the muscle and stresses bones. This causes muscle and bones to build or rebuild and become stronger. First of all the body must rebuild the broken down muscle and then it actually strengthens the muscle and the bones because it perceives that the body will need extra strength in the future. The process of building and rebuilding new muscle and bone requires a substantial amount of calories. It is the same situation that exists in children and adolescents who are constantly building new muscle, bone and organs and therefore, can consume a great deal more calories and not gain weight.

Professional bodybuilders, for example, can jump the amount of calories they burn per day from 2,500 calories a day to over 9,000 calories per day in some cases due to anaerobic exercise.

But the benefits of anaerobic exercise do not stop there. The building of muscle and bone requires organs to engage in extra performance which in turn revitalizes the organs. The building of muscle and bone also requires the body to produce youth related hormones. Besides building muscle and bone, these youth-related hormones, as documented in scientific studies from the University of California, San Diego, also increase the sex drive and provide better sexual performance. The mind also benefits in that people who do anaerobic exercise also have been shown to have better mental performance according to scientific studies.

On the other side of the coin, people who do not engage in anaerobic exercise as they get older will lose muscle, lose bone mass, gain fat and experience the deterioration of internal organs and the cardiovascular system. A new Tufts University study found that the average woman after the age of 30, every 10 years loses 5 pounds of muscle, loses 10% of her bone mass and gains 10 pounds of fat. By age 50, the average woman is nearly 50% body fat and has lost 20% of her bone mass.

The Tufts study also found that you are never too old to get anaerobic exercise benefits. It was found that anaerobic exercise increased the muscles and bone density of nursing home patients in their 80s and 90s, increased their strength by 175% and many of them got rid of their walkers.

Another reason anaerobic exercise is so important with regard to losing excess fat is this: When you diet and do not do anaerobic exercise, the body is designed to perceive that it is fat, not muscle, that will be needed in the future and the body actually starts burning a substantial amount of muscle. When you do anaerobic exercise, the body perceives that it is muscle that it will need in the future and starts burning excess fat at a very high rate. This is why aerobic exercise usually burns 25% muscle and 75% fat while anaerobic exercise burns 100% fat.

Also, every pound of new muscle created by anaerobic exercise will burn an extra 30-40 calories per day just to maintain the muscle while you are sitting idle. Therefore, if you build just 3 pounds of new muscle, this will burn approximately an extra 100 calories per day or 36,000 calories per year. Since there are 3,600 calories in a pound of fat, this means you would lose 10 pounds of fat per year for doing nothing. That's not bad!

But you must do proper anaerobic exercise to get adequate benefits. Improper anaerobic exercise will yield minimal results.

Proper anaerobic exercise requires proper resistance and proper movements against this resistance. Popular gimmick machines such as rowing machines, flex band machines, air gliders, ab rollers and so on, provide very minimal anaerobic exercise results and, in many cases, very minimal aerobic exercise results. Most of these machines only exercise 20% to 50% of the muscles at best.

To do proper anaerobic exercise, it is necessary to be under certified instruction and use the proper resistance equipment.

The best resistance equipment is free weights, mainly dumbbells. Dumbbells exercise 90% of the body's muscles and are the heart of resistance equipment used by professional body builders.

In the past the only way to get proper anaerobic exercise was to hire a certified personal trainer and go to a full gym.

However, a new, advanced anaerobic exercise program has been developed by Biotech Research which requires only 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week and utilizes items around the house to substitute for dumbbells. Information on this new advanced program is given below.

Figure 1
Below is the comparison of the amount of calories burned in 60 minutes of aerobic exercise and 60 minutes of anaerobic exercise.

Exercise	Calories used during exercise	Additional calories used 2 hrs. after exercise	Additional calories used 3-15 hrs. after exercise
Aerobic Exercise	210	25	0
Anaerobic Exercise	650	150	260

(Re: Dr. Christopher Melby, "Effect of acute resistance exercise on post-exercise energy expenditure and resting metabolic rate," Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Colorado State University)

New, advanced speed anaerobic exercise method takes only 10 minutes a day at home before you shower only 5 days a week

Each 10 minutes is the equivalent of a 28- to 60-minute typical full gym workout and burns more fat than 2 hours of typical aerobic exercise.

By John Whitehead, Media Services

(Canton, OHIO, USA) It may be the biggest development in exercise in the past 50 years.

This development is a new, advanced, 10-minute speed anaerobic exercise method that reduces to insignificance the time and inconvenience required for proper anaerobic exercise. It also makes anaerobic exercising much easier. In only 50 minutes a week you will get much better results than the typical person who does aerobic and anaerobic exercises in a full gym for 45 to 60 minutes, 3 times a week.

Each 10 minutes of this new anaerobic method burns more calories than 50 minutes of proper intense aerobic exercise and 2 hours of typical aerobic exercise. It will also give you cardiovascular benefits.

With this new method, for only 10 minutes a day before you shower, only 5 days a week, you will be able to eliminate excess fat; eliminate a pot belly; gain a stronger, more attractive body; gain stronger bones; gain better organ function, including better sex drive; increase your mental abilities and you will become much more attractive. Those are the scientifically proven results people get from proper anaerobic exercise. You will also gain a great deal of athletic ability including being able to drive a golf ball 30 yards or more farther.

This new exercise method is The Campitelli Advanced 10-Minute Speed Exercise Method. There is a program for men and a program for women. The men's program is designed to give the desirable V shape for the man, flat abdomen and other desirable male appearances. The women's program is designed to provide women with the desirable female body which consists of a smaller lower body, smaller calves, smaller shapely thighs and hips, lifted rounded buttocks, flat abdomen, larger bustline, and small but firm arms.

This new advanced method was developed by Biotech Research and Frank Campitelli, considered by many to be America's leading certified personal trainer. You probably are already familiar with Campitelli, the best-selling fitness book author who has been seen on TV and in nearly every newspaper in the country.



This new advanced anaerobic exercise speed method was developed by Biotech Research and Frank Campitelli (pictured center above), the best-selling fitness book author who is considered by many to be America's leading certified personal trainer. Campitelli's advanced 10-minute per day 5-day a week exercise program can quickly provide you with a body such as Brian Fife and Michelle Talboo pictured above with Campitelli.

As you also may be aware, new research has found that anaerobic exercise (which builds muscle, bone and cuts fat) is cumulative. This means that it doesn't matter how long you exercise in each anaerobic exercise session during the week. It only matters how many total minutes of actual anaerobic exercise engagement you do per week. It also matters what type of exercise you do during those minutes because wrong methods will not work and the new advanced anaerobic exercise methods get better results in less time than the old-style methods.

You can do this advanced method anywhere — in your bedroom or bathroom before you shower, in your living room while watching the news in the evening or even while you are at work.

Research has determined that this advanced program will cut nearly 5 hours off the total anaerobic exercise time required for the typical person who carries out proper anaerobic exercise in a gym. To do proper anaerobic exercise means under certified supervision at a full gym doing three 45-minute workouts per week. For 3 times a week, Biotech Research calculations show that the total time involved in preparing to go to the gym, driving to the gym, waiting to get on equipment and driving back home takes well over 6 hours per week. This can all be replaced with 10 minutes per day, 5 days per week, which is a total of 50 minutes a week.

Besides cutting the preparation time, drive time and waiting time, Frank Campitelli's methods also cut the time of the actual exercise session needed for good results. This has been done in two ways. First, the exercise routines are more advanced than old-style exercise routines and accomplish more in the same minutes of actual exercise engagement. Second, doing these advanced routines 10 minutes a day eliminates the requirement for rest periods between exercise sets. Research found that rest periods consume 75% of the typical 45-60 minute anaerobic workout. Surprisingly, there is only 10 to 15 minutes of actual exercise engagement. It was found that people can easily do 10 minutes of anaerobic exercise without a rest period. This rest period elimination also provides cardiovascular benefits in addition to the anaerobic benefits and, therefore, both are gained at the same time.

Research has determined that each advanced Campitelli workout of 10 minutes is at least the equivalent of the exercise time of a 28-minute proper anaerobic workout; and, in many typical cases, it equals or exceeds the effective exercise time of a 45-minute to one-hour workout.

Campitelli then scientifically sequenced 20 of these daily 10-minute exercise routines in a way that exercises and builds every body muscle with optimum effectiveness and optimum use of time. And, you don't repeat the same exercise routine for a month.

The Campitelli advanced 10-minute speed workout is also much more effective than the typical 45-minute to 60-minute workout for the following reasons.

Few people engage in proper exercise even though most think that they do.

Casual exercise such as walking, golfing or even using a treadmill will not produce adequate weight loss or fitness. Sit-ups and AB rollers will absolutely never work to flatten your abdomen. Gimmick machines such as rowing machines, ski machines and air gliders give you very minimal anaerobic (muscle building and toning) exercise benefits. Also all these gimmick machines provide very minimal aerobic exercise benefits in most cases.

But even people that go to a well-equipped gym reap very minimal exercise benefits in most cases. This has nothing to do with the equipment but rather the way that they use the equipment. Most people think they know it all about exercise. But contrary to this belief, the fact is that few people know how to properly exercise and most are simply wasting their time in a gym.

Most people gain their exercise knowledge from friends in a gym throughout their life and it ends up being the blind-leading-the-blind. Most of these gym and spa members do not even realize that they are not even exercising over 50% of their muscles. Most will do popular exercises such as bench presses and curls and totally avoid the most critical areas such as back, shoulders and critical lower body areas. The way that they do their exercises is usually primitive, inefficient and thus mostly ineffective.

The Campitelli Advanced 10-Minute Speed Exercise Method was developed by Frank Campitelli, a certified personal trainer and nutritionist; Ric Ady, a national bodybuilding champion; a medical doctor, and other Biotech Research staff members. This method has 20 scientifically structured and scientifically sequenced 10-minute exercise routines that will provide you with effective anaerobic exercise, cardiovascular benefits, and excellent results for the minimum amount of time, inconvenience and effort. It also eliminates the boredom of exercise because you do not repeat a routine for 4 weeks. The program includes: 1) twenty 10-minute, separate exercise routines on videotape set to music done one each day only 5 days a week so you do not repeat the routine for 4 weeks; 2) the same 20 workouts on handy cards with photo illustrations, and 3) the Campitelli Advanced nutritional program that was produced with one of the nation's top gourmet chefs that will enable you to lose weight by eating 300 to 400% more and better tasting food.

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هكذا من الاصل

I say, I say... that's no joke

Eve-Ann Prentice meets the rabbi whose wife has banned his mother-in-law jokes

ANTHONY UPTON



Rabbi Yitzchak Schochet says he doesn't want people "to go home from the synagogue feeling worse than when they came in"

Have you heard the one about the rabbi who made jokes about his mother-in-law during his sermons? His wife produced a gag of her own: she ordered him to stop.

Now the congregation at the Mill Hill synagogue in north-west London is divided between those who want Rabbi Yitzchak Schochet to carry on regardless and those who are pleased that his wife has put her foot down. After four-and-a-half years of hearing the rabbi's endless repertoire in the style of the late Les Dawson, king of the mother-in-law jokers, Chani Schochet told her husband to ditch the offending jokes, and he promised to steer clear of the subject of mothers-in-law, saying: "My wife is the centre of my universe so I'll have to adhere to her wishes, even if I don't understand them."



Les Dawson

Even some mothers-in-law who attend the synagogue have defended the rabbi, while some of the men who once supported the quips have joined his critics. "I think the husbands were getting a telling-off from their wives when they got home," one man said.

The rabbi has vowed not to go entirely straight, and says: "I will carry on telling jokes, because it ensures that people come back and that the synagogue is upbeat and welcoming. It is not just a matter of telling jokes, there is a moral to them, and the last thing I want is for people to go home feeling worse than when they came in."

Rabbi Schochet says: "I get on well with my mother-in-law, as everybody knows; the jokes are just part of my overall humour. There is a lot of truth in jokes."

Amid a culture which has seen the actress Maureen Lipman personify the Jewish mama in television adverts for British Telecom, the rabbi is a baffled by the objection to his mother-in-law jokes. "Women play a profound role in sustaining the spiritual role in maintaining Judaism," he says. "More so now than 30 years ago."

One of the many jokes which his congregation will no longer hear is: "My mother-in-law went to the Chamber of Horrors. She stopped by an exhibit but was told: 'Please keep moving, we are stocktaking'."

Another tells of a man at a sellout football match, tickets to which were like gold dust. He notices that the seat next to a woman by his side is empty, and asks if she knows why. "It was for my husband," she says.

"Why isn't he here?" the man asks.

"Because he is deceased," the woman replies.

"Well, why on earth didn't one of your sons come in his place?" the man asks, baffled.

"They couldn't come because they are at the funeral," the woman says.

Rabbi Schochet, who has been married for nine years and whose favourite comedian is Robin Williams, says: "My having been curbed is nothing to do with political correctness, which I think is a nonsense.

"There are some jokes I would never tell in a synagogue — sexual jokes, for instance. But that is not to say I would not tell a sexual joke in a meeting or hall, as long as it was not too near the mark."

One of the women members of the Mill Hill congregation who defends the rabbi is Susan Myeroff, who has been a mother-in-law for two-and-a-half years. She says: "I think people who want to stop the mother-in-law jokes are just stupid. It makes no odds to me; it brings light and air to our services. I think Rabbi Schochet is lovely, and the old fogeys should wake up if they want to keep the community together."

One sign of the rabbi's popularity is that the number of people belonging to the synagogue has risen from 500 families to 730 families since he arrived.

The Toronto-born rabbi will not be avoiding women altogether in his jokes from now on, though. As he was preparing this week's 15-minute sermon on the subject of making the most of opportunities, he slipped in another joke...

"A Jewish woman selling pretzels in New York is puzzled by a man who always comes by, pays a quarter, but never picks up a pretzel. This goes on for some time until, one day, the woman runs after the man as he walks away. 'I know why you are chasing after me... you want to know why I always pay a quarter but never take a pretzel,' the man says.

"The woman replies: 'No, I wanted to tell you that the price has just gone up'."

Great escape remembered



Ruth Gledhill joins in celebrating the Passover

"SAID THE FATHER to his children, At the Seder you will dine," we sang lustily, to the tune of *O my darling, Clementine*. "You will eat your fill of *matzah*, You will drink four cups of wine."

I was at a *seder* or Passover meal, celebrating the flight of the Israelites from Egypt and slavery 3,500 years ago. The food symbolised aspects of the escape. But, in spite of the passing years, the message of Passover, which this year coincided with Easter, is still relevant.

The security guard outside the small community centre in Maidenhead, Berkshire, was testimony to the omnipresent threat of anti-Semitism. The theme of Northern Ireland was taken by our rabbi, Dr Jonathan Romain, as one fitting to Passover.

Nearly 200 members of the 700 families belonging to the Maidenhead Reform community had gathered for the Saturday night celebrations. Aaron Farenback-Brakeman, seven, sang the *Ma Nishtana*, the four questions, after the breaking of the *matzah*, the unleavened bread symbolic of the flight from Egypt, which was so hurried that there was no time to allow dough to rise.

The theme was freedom. "You are free to ask, you are free to question, free to learn the answers of tradition, free to add answers of your own," we read in the liturgy, the *Haggadah*. "Our story begins with degradation and ends with glory."

When we ate the bread, we leant to the left, a relic of the Roman custom where freemen were allowed to recline on couches at banquets, leaving their right hands free to eat.

The festival's name comes from the Hebrew *pasach*, or "passed over", when God passed over the homes of the Israelites when visiting the tenth plague on the Egyptians, the death of the firstborn.

Earlier, we ate a hard-boiled egg dipped in salt water to symbolise tears, horseradish to signify the sufferings in Egypt, and charoset, a sweet paste symbolising the clay with which the Israelites were forced to make bricks.

The four-hour service was broken by a meal, of cold salmon and salad, and frequent interjections from Dr Romain, who interpreted the ritual as we progressed through it. "The theme of Passover does not just refer to a historical experience. The theme of freedom is universal. It does not just apply to modern Jews, but to anyone who is suffering from oppression of any kind. The words Moses in Pharaoh's court, 'Let my people go', have reverberated around the world. I have seen placards with these words in Trafalgar Square, Soweto, Moscow. It is a message for everybody, not just for Jews."

● *Maidenhead Synagogue, Boyn Hill Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4ET (01628 673012).*

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RUTH GLEDHILL



Rabbi Jonathan Romain at the Passover festivities

We have found our home, now we must seek peace

Credo

JONATHAN SACKS



In 1871 my great-grandfather, Rabbi Aryeh Leib Frumkin, left his home in Kelme, Lithuania, and set out on a fateful journey. He was one of the first generation of religious Zionists. His destination was Jerusalem. He carried with him one treasured possession, a Torah scroll, which to him represented the biblical covenant between the Jewish people and their land. There, he believed, Jews would find peace.

Four years later, George Eliot published *Daniel Deronda*. It, too, was about a journey to Jerusalem. Deronda is an assimilated Jew in whom the vision of the return to Zion re-awakes. He recovers his Jewish identity and travels to Israel to revive the "organic centre" of his people. For Eliot, the idea of a Jewish homecoming was one of the great romantic possibilities. "The world will gain as Israel gains," she wrote. "There will be a land set for halting-place of enmities."

The reality proved darker than the dream. In 1881, pogroms broke out in more than a hundred towns in Russia. My great-grandfather toured Europe, arguing for Jewish immigration to Israel as a matter of life-saving urgency. In 1884 he bought land in Petach Tikva (The Gateway of Hope), built the first house there, and began turning a malarial swamp into an agricultural settlement. As it grew, however, so did the hostility of the surrounding Arab population. Ten years later, after an attack on the village, he came to London. Neither Europe nor the Middle East was yet ready for "a halting-place of enmities".

On April 29th we will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the State of Israel. No event more starkly epitomises the tragedies and triumphs of Jewish life in the 20th century. In 1948, world Jewry was still devastated by the Holocaust. Since the rise of Hitler, Jews had sought a place of refuge and found the doors of the world closed. They needed a home, in the sense defined by the poet Robert Frost as the place where "when you have to go there, they have to take you in". The State of Israel was the child of the nightmare of anti-Semitism and the dream of the return of a people to its ancestral home.

Israel was born in war. The day the State was proclaimed it was attacked on all its borders. It has faced war and terrorism ever since. Yet it remains the fulfilment of a prophetic dream. Because of Israel, Hebrew, the language of the Bible, has become again a living tongue. A once desolate landscape has become a place of forests and farms. The State of Israel has rescued Jews from every country where they faced persecution.

After centuries of dispersion, the Jewish people has returned to the land to which Abraham and Sarah first travelled four thousand years ago. It has emerged from the shadow of death to new life. If we search, as the prophets did, for the presence of God in human history, surely it is here. And it will be to God that on Israel's Jubilee we will give thanks.

But the search for peace remains. Jews did not return home to make others homeless. Nor did they escape millennia of suffering to inflict suffering on others. Isaiah's words 25 centuries ago still define Israel's challenge and its hope: "I will make peace your governor and righteousness your ruler. No longer will violence be heard in your land."

● *Dr Jonathan Sacks is the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew congregations of the Commonwealth.*

Church services for tomorrow

Second Sunday of Easter.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Shepherd in D, The Dean; 3.15 Ch E, Sumsion in A.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Borzoi Weddi; 11 Euch, Meirikal Gloria (Camberwell); 5 Cymun Bendigaid.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, View me Lord (Lloyd); 3.30 Ch E.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Kelly in C; 4 Ch E, Stanford in B flat.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, A: Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley); 10.30 Euch, Darke in E, Canon Hindley; 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, 11 M, Boyce in C; 3.30 E, Stanford in C, A: Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Stanford).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Canon P Johnson; 3.30 Ch E, The Gloucester service (Howells).

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd); 3.15 E, Sowerby in D; 6.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor, Canon D Weston; 3 EP.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev K Hacker Hughes; 11.15 Euch; 6 E, Rev I Moody.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Rev T Barker; 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 3.30 E, Walmisley in D minor; 6.30 ES, Canon O Conway.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Boyce in C; 11 S Euch, Jackson in G, Rev M Manktelow; 3.30 E, Day in B flat.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Sumsion in A.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch; 6 E.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Missa papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Canon S Barby; 6 Easter carols.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in B flat; 11.15 HC, Mass in four parts (Byrd); 3.30 E, Second service (Gibbons).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa euge bone (Tye), Canon J Inge; 3.45 E, Bairstow in D.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa osculeteur me (Lassus); 11.15 M, A: O sing unto the Lord a new song (Tomkins); 3 E; 6.30 ES, Canon D Ison.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Darke in F, Canon R Grey; 3 E, My beloved spake (Alban-Jones).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Dum transiisset (Taverner); 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat, 6.30 E, Wood in D.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Missa brevis (Ives); 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 3.30 E, Sumsion in G.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MS, 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd); 3.15 E, Sowerby in D; 6.30 Compline.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G, Venerable A Sadler; 3.30 E, Dyson in D.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor; 11.15 M, Stanford in B flat, Canon D Griffiths; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E, Wood in D.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Rev G Davies; 3 Boys Brigade service, Rev S Peirce; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 C; 10.45 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Rev N G Jones; 12.15 HC; 3.30, 6.30 E.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Congregational mass (Beer); 6.30 EP.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne); 6 Ch E, Dyson in D.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 9.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley); 3.30 E, Collegium Magdalenae oxoniense (Leighton); 6.30 Healing service.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Ireland in F; 10.30 Euch, Missa eliensis (Wills); 3.30 E, Watson in E.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30 Euch; 11.30 M; 12.30 Euch, Canon H Garside; 5.30 E, Walmisley in D minor.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Christus Resurgens (Lassus); 3.15 E, Salisbury service (Lloyd).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Stanford in C & F, Very Rev D Watson; 11.30 M, Boyce in C, Rev A Philip; 3 Ch E, Murrill in E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Venerable S Lowe; 6.30 Festal E.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Four part mass (Byrd), A: Adoramus te Christe (Lassus); 3 E, Ireland in F, A: Achieved is the glorious work (Haydn).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart), Canon M Byrom; 6 E, Stanford in B flat.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C, Canon R Gage; 11 Sol Euch; 6 E.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C, Canon M Middleton; 11.15 Euch, Mass in four parts (Byrd); 3 E, Bairstow in D; 5.45 Organ Recital: Martin Baker; 6.30 ES, Sister H Markey.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass; 12 Mass; 3.30 Sol V & B; 5.30, 7 Mass. (Choir is on vacation).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Stanford in B flat; 11.15 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor; 3.30 E, Collegium regale (Howells), Canon P Morgan.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Darke in F; 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 4 E, Canon Dr J Toy.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 M, Britten in C, Canon Rimsm; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, Wood in G.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré); 6.30 Ch E, Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Stanford).

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch M, Above all praise (Mendelssohn), Canon D Roberts; 3.30 E.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembrokeshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch M, Harwood in A flat; 6 Ch E, Collegium regale (Howells).

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Rev R Davey; 11.30 Ch M, Britten in C; 3.30 Ch E, A: Worthy is the lamb (Handel).

ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8 Euch; 11.15 Ch Euch, Rawsthorne in C; 7 Sung Compline.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC; 11.30 Science festival service; 6 StGiles at Six; 8 ES, Rev K K Watson.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, Rev R Frazer; 6 ES.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Rev J Cuthbert; 3.30 Ch E, Noble in B minor.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 Euch; 3.15 Ch E, Stanford in C, Rev K J Smyth.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.30 S Euch, Missa quinti toni (Lassus); 3.15 E, Andrews in G, Rev M Engler; 5 Organ recital: Robert Housari; 6 ES.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: Easter midnight service. Doors open 1030 pm. Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Jackson in G, Rev I Davies; 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Moeran in D.

ALL SOULS, W1: 8, 9.30, 11.30 C, Rev P Blackham; 6.30 EP, Rev J Cook.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11, Ego sum panis vivus (Byrd).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's service; 11 M, Dr P Green; 12.15 HC; 6 E.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 HC, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (Berkeley); 12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Rev S Millar.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street: 8.45 Euch; 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor, Rev R Ballard.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Maria magdalena (Lobo); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Haec dies (Wood); 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP; 6.30 EP.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev G Neumann; 7 Ch Vespers.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa brevis (Britten); 6.30 E, Harwood in A flat.

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Ireland in F, Canon J Oates; 6.30 Ch E, Short service (Gibbons).

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch Euch, Ireland in F, Rev B Frere.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11, Rev D P Bush; 6.30.

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Short service (Tallis).

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens: 10.30 S Euch, Rev S Lane; 6 E.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 HC, Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP, Rev M Okello.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Rev C Kevill-Davies; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Rev R McLaren.

ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 11 S Euch.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors Service; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES, Rev D Monteith.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M, Rev P Stubbs; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Missa puisque j'ai perdu (Lassus); 6 Sol E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NW3: 10.30 Euch, Aleluia Pascal (Dupré)

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa l'hora passa (Viadana), Rev T Clark.

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch, Rev W Gulliford.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Regina caeli laetare (Morales).

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Vaughan Williams in G, Rev V Dobbin.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, I will lift up mine eyes (Walker), Canon J O Colling.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Harris in A flat; 3.30 E.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley St, W1: 11 S Euch, Rev S J Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 HC (Said), The Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30 HC.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Haec dies (Byrd), Band of the Scots Guards; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd), Rev R Nurton.

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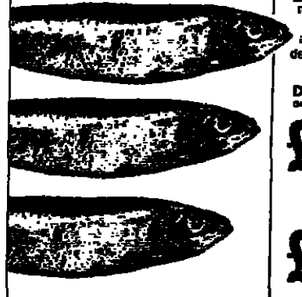
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A little too close for comfort

Jill Crawshaw, travel journalist of the year, joins a walking safari to look for the rare black rhino in Zimbabwe



TONY STONE

There used to be about 2,500 black rhinos in Zimbabwe but they have been poached almost to extinction and today there are 300. Dehorning has not worked as a deterrent

We spotted the ox-pecker, industriously searching for parasites on a primeval rumpled hide, and then there she was, 1,500 kilograms of bone and muscle, browsing tranquilly in a thicket less than 20 metres away.

Here was the reason for my travelling across two continents in large and small planes, bumping through the bush in an open Land Rover and fording swollen rivers to finally arrive, on foot, in a remote corner of Zimbabwe in temperatures of Turkish-bath proportions.

Though intrigued by elephants, somewhat disillusioned by lions and captivated by antelopes, wild dogs and jackals, I'd never really bonded with rhinos — though I was concerned at their plight as one of the world's most endangered species.

But for Norman Crooks, once a tobacco farmer, now in charge of conservation at the Bubiana Conservancy in southern Zimbabwe, black rhinos are the most fascinating creatures on earth.

"Most people imagine they're extremely aggressive, when it's more likely they're just being inquisitive. Apart from the odd cranky bull or mothers with young calves, they're rather gentle beasts. They have this ridiculous cumbersome body, child-like brain and very poor eyesight — but good hearing and an acute sense of smell. So they often approach too close, take fright and charge. Rhinos have been known to go for stationary trains and dead elephants.

"Should they charge," he added casually, aware that we were hoping to set off on a tracking expedition, "don't run off. Lie flat and hope he'll run past. Zigzag into the bush to confuse him, or look for a solid-looking tree to dodge behind. We'd hate to have to shoot a rhino. Tourists are many, rhinos are few."

I had this advice in mind when I set off in pursuit of a rhino on the Conservancy, and when I finally caught sight of her massive bulk and assessed her tonnage, I decided that lying down was definitely not an option. Fortunately she went back to her grazing, and then lumbered deeper into the forest on her stubby legs.

Gumbo — the trackers can identify most of the rhinos by name — is one of the lucky ones. In 1992, she and 40 other black rhinos were relocated to Bubiana from the Zambezi Valley where the rhino population was being wiped out by poachers.

"There used to be about 2,500 black rhinos in Zimbabwe," says Norman, "but today there are around 300. It would be an absolute tragedy if a species that has taken something like 50 million years to evolve disappeared in 50 years."

The male rhino has incredible staying power and copulation can last over an hour, with frequent ejaculations — which is why the powdered horn is regarded as a powerful aphrodisiac in the Middle and Far East. Some parks have adopted a dehorning programme (the horn grows back), but Norman is doubtful about its efficacy. "Poachers often kill an animal without a horn so that they won't waste time tracking him again."

TRAVEL INK



Walking safaris are a great way to see rhinos

At Bubiana and a handful of other sanctuaries, the black rhino of Zimbabwe is making a determined last stand. In 1991, seven farming families in the south decided to pool their ranches to create a 250,000-acre wildlife conservancy with the agreement of the Department of National Parks and aided by World Wildlife Foundation funding. They brought in the 41 black rhinos from the Zambezi Valley, and 50 scouts who work in pairs with radios to monitor the rhinos and watch for poachers.

"We offer a reward of 10,000 Zimbabwe dollars (£368) for information about poachers and we haven't had to pay out yet," says Norman. "Encouraging villagers to learn about wildlife and work in the Conservancy so that they benefit from our activities is the best way to stop the killing."

Bubiana claims the most successful breeding programme in the country. It now has 69 rhinos, well over half the target of 100. When that's reached the plan is to sell back 15 a year to the National Parks, to build up a viable 2,000 or so in the country as a whole.

The Conservancy hasn't been created out of purely altruistic motives — it also makes sound commercial as well as political sense. The income from game, selling wildlife to restock parks, hunting and photographic safaris can double the income from cattle grazing. Tourist enterprises include a fishing camp, a limited hunting concession, and the Barberton Lodge which offers river trips, game drives, walking and riding safaris run by Norman's daughter Liesel with horseback trips to a bush camp in the heart of the property.

As yet, Barberton Lodge is scarcely known to British holidaymakers. It's quite stunningly located, perched on a hilltop among tumbled kopjes, the granite boulders that are as smooth and large as whalebacks. Natural rock frames the bar and from a small pool and tiny gazebo up in the clouds you gaze out over an African Garden of Eden.

Each day on the rolling bushveld below the terrace of my cottage, klipspringer and kudu bound into focus, and a martial eagle broods on a distant boulder; in the foreground tiny golden orb spiders spin giant webs that glisten between the bushes, and male weaverbirds frenziedly build nests. There's a great temptation to stay put in this eyrie, cossetted by meals and free-flowing wines which are all included in the price of £100 a day. So are the game drives, rides, walks and excursions. One evening we drift downriver on a raft with binoculars, a cool box, kingfishers and hippos for company. And since it is too wet and slippery to ride, Liesel takes us on an archaeological discovery tour, on which we see late stone-age rock paintings she has discovered (40 sites have been found in the Conservancy).

On the smooth granite she gently traces the delicate animal and human images in faded red-ochre pigment. "It's pretty awe-inspiring that I may have been the first person to see them for 10,000 years. The landscape probably isn't very different today."

She admits there can be problems with first-timers to the bush: "They have watched TV wildlife documentaries, but forgotten that these may have taken months, even years to film. They arrive expecting non-stop action — a birth, a chase, a kill all in one game drive. But wildlife watching is all about time, patience and a lot of luck."

So we prayed for luck on our rhino-spotting mission, and waited patiently until, on our final day, a call came at last, crackling through the radio — rhino spoor had been found in an area of dense bush some miles from the lodge.

Grabbing cameras and binoculars we tumbled into the Land Rover to pick up Dumas, the chief tracker, along with the tools of his trade; a pair of handcuffs in case he came across poachers, a long wisp of grass that was his windsock, plus countless generations of inherited skills from his Shangaan ancestors, considered the finest trackers in Africa.

To get down to the real business of tracking we have to proceed on foot in single file and in total silence with adrenalin pumping madly (away from the safety of the vehicle you become dreadfully aware that you could well be the next link in the food chain).

Dumas sniffs, stoops and scans the bush for clues. After more than 20 visits to Africa, I have enough experience to identify the footprint graffiti of giraffe, hyena and antelope, but Dumas can spot a tiny patch of slightly crushed grass and shrubs that look as if they'd been neatly cropped by garden secateurs where the rhino has browsed. The first pudgy three-toed rhino print sends a tingle coursing through our veins, as does our next find, a pool of urine — rhinos often lie in it as a form of air-conditioning. "About ten minutes to go," breathes Dumas.

We tread ever more warily. Snapping twigs sound like firecrackers. Waves of heat seep from the very belly of the earth, and rivulets of sweat sting our scratched arms and legs; a warthog suddenly crashing through the bushes has me on the brink of bolting for the nearest termite mound.

And then Dumas points to a thicket — and Gumbo. We're too close even for a photo, and certainly don't need binoculars to spot the cracks and wrinkles in that leathery hide, the twitching ears, the sweet, almost smiling mouth. She peers at us shortsightedly through the bushes, but decides that lush rain-soaked grasses are more interesting.

If I put my hand on my heart, I couldn't say that, as yet, the rhino rivals the leopard, elephant and impala in my wildlife pop chart, but the bonding has begun.

HOW TO TRACK RHINOS IN ZIMBABWE

■ Jill Crawshaw travelled with Africa Exclusive (01604 628979) which offers tailor-made canoeing, riding, walking and elephant-back safaris to most of southern and eastern Africa.
A 15-night itinerary including a stay at Barberton Lodge and other camps in Zimbabwe, Botswana or South Africa costs from around £2,500, including all flights, food, drink and game viewing.

■ Getting there: Air Zimbabwe (0171-491 0009) has three direct ten-hour flights, plus one via Frankfurt, to Harare each week, where you change for Bulawayo. Cost until the end of June is £594 (to Bulawayo) plus £20 UK departure tax. There is also a departure tax (US$20) when you leave Zimbabwe which non-Zimbabwe citizens have to pay in US dollars. Barberton Lodge is then reached by private plane from Bulawayo for £100 return (two people minimum).

■ Red tape: British and Irish passport holders do not need visas for stays of up to 90 days. All travellers need a valid passport and proof of onward travel.

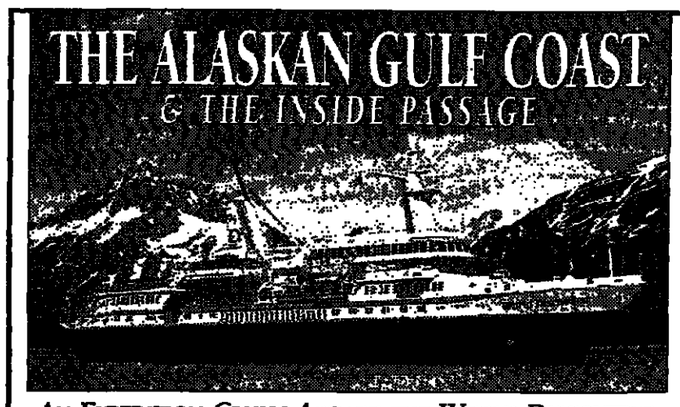
■ When to go: Game viewing is at its best during the dry season, from April to October.

■ Health: Zimbabwe is a malarial area and anti-malaria tablets and repellents are essential. Consult your doctor and ring the Malaria Reference Laboratory Information Line on 0891 600350 (premium rates) for detailed advice. Travellers are also advised to be inoculated against hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio.



■ Safety: The recent food riots were not directed at and did not affect tourists. The Travel Advice Unit of the Foreign Office states that: "Crime levels in Zimbabwe are usually generally low. But mugging and pick-pocketing are prevalent in city centres, especially in Harare near hotels and banks."

■ Reading: *Zimbabwe and Botswana: The Rough Guide* (Rough Guides, £11.99); *Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia: A Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £12.95); *A Traveller's Guide To Zimbabwe* by Paul Tingay (C. Struik, £14.95).



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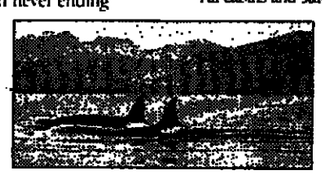
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World Discoverer is 285 feet long and 50 feet wide. She is classified +AE+AMS ICE with an ice-strengthened hull which allows her to navigate easily in the most rugged environments. On board are a fleet of Zodiac landing craft which permit us to land anywhere nature or curiosity dictate.

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THE ITINERARY

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Day 5 Kayak Island. Here captain Vitus Bering landed in 1741 after crossing the North Pacific from Russia.
Day 6 Icy Bay. With Mt St Elias framing an imposing backdrop explore the mighty Malaspina and Guyot Glaciers which have carved the land formations over the millennia. Zodiacs will take us to the head of this impressive bay, populated by hundreds of harbour seals. Look out for black bears.
Day 7 Yakutat Bay & Hubbard Glacier. In 1986 Hubbard Glacier went through a surge cycle, advancing as much as 130 feet per day. Eventually an ice dam formed and burst with fervent velocity 35 times that of Niagara Falls.
Day 8 Lituya Bay. Today we attempt to enter one of North America's most remarkable and also most inaccessible wilderness areas. This almost hidden fjord is abutted by a perpendicular wall of rock and ice 12,000 feet high. We will be the only ship privileged to observe this unsurpassed wilderness.
Day 9 Glacier Bay National Park. We will enter the Inside Passage and spend the day observing this ice-age time capsule as sixteen spectacular glaciers flow into the waters of Glacier bay.
Day 10 Tracy Arm Fjord. The winding fjord leads us through an ethereal wilderness of soaring peaks and high cliffs, crystalline icebergs and tumbling waterfalls to the foot of the twin Sawyer Glaciers. Explore in Zodiacs with our naturalists, see calving glaciers.
Day 11 Admiralty Island/Chichagof Island. An estimated 1700 brown bears and 800 bald eagles reside here. After a morning of exploration we will sail to Chichagof Island where we hope to observe some of the large numbers of sea otters in the area.
Day 12 Coronation Island. The *World Discoverer* is the only vessel visiting this marvellous area which provides perfect shelter for marbled murrelets, storm petrels and sooty shearwaters.
Day 13 Misty Fjords National Park. Today we will cruise the Misty Fjords National Monument, a rugged wilderness region of deep fjords, verdant lush forests and abundant wildlife. Lookout for bears, bald eagles and harbour seals.
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Day 15 London Heathrow. Morning arrival.

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**The 14th August departure operates in the reverse order from Prince Rupert to Seward and the cruise is two days shorter, omitting calls at Lituya Bay and Admiralty/Chichagof Islands. The full itinerary for the 10 night cruise and 2 night stay in Vancouver is available on request.*

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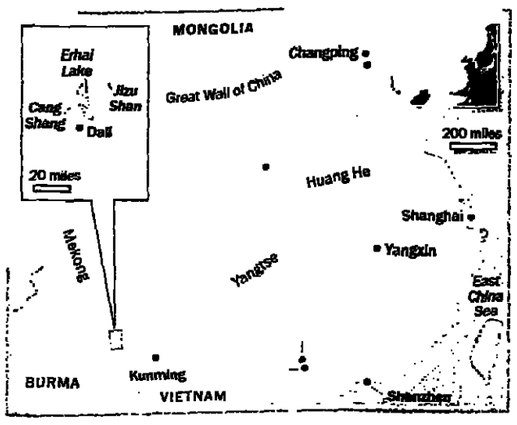
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CHINA: INDEPENDENT TRAVEL



Top class treatment on the right track

Comfortable trains in China? Yes, says **Nick Hawton** – but they used to be grim, recalls **Cath Urquhart**



CHRISTOPHER BLUNTZER/IMPACT

China's long-distance trains are now offering smart restaurant cars and comfortable berths — but the traditional ways of passing a 30-hour journey remain popular

A young soldier holding a machine-gun and standing under a parasol advertising cigarettes marked the point at which capitalist Hong Kong merged into communist China.

This was Shenzhen, less than an hour into the journey. The train did not stop here, though. Instead, it carried on for a few miles before sidling into the small town of Changping for the main border checks. Everybody was ushered off the train. There was a cursory glance at our passports, a quick look at our luggage and then — with much less fuss than I had expected — we were waved on. We had a long way to go: a 30-hour journey covering 1,400 miles, from the warm sunshine of the southern Chinese coast to the icy chill that descends on the north in the first few months of a new year. We would cross five provinces, the world's third-longest river, the Yangtze, and travel through a country undergoing massive change.

As the train passed through the industrial hinterland of Guangdong province, I sampled the delights of the buffet car, where I fell into conversation with Mr Wang, a former senior civil servant from the Hong Kong Water Services Department. As the brandies flowed, I asked him what he thought about Hong Kong returning to Chinese control.

"All Hong Kongers are proud to be Chinese," he said. "It's right that we've rejoined the motherland. But it's the future I'm concerned about. I enjoy my lifestyle and I enjoy what Hong Kong has given me. But I don't know what's going to happen."

Glancing out of the window might have provided reassurance. We saw construction sites, half-built roads, half-built apartment blocks and cranes. There were people everywhere busy building and creating.

If, as they say, Hong Kong is the model for much of China's recent development, surely the former British colony is unlikely to experience drastic change.

The train itself was an example of the new, changing China. The direct service between Hong Kong and Beijing (there is also one between Hong Kong and Shanghai) opened in May last year.

It boasts three classes of carriage: deluxe, soft sleeper and hard sleeper. There are 125 staff catering for about 300 passengers, and there is a good restaurant car. And, most importantly, there is loo paper (not to be taken for granted on Chinese trains).

The train made ten stops en route, the principle ones being Guangzhou, Changsha, Wuhan, Zhengzhou and Shijiazhuang. But we never had longer than ten minutes to stretch our legs. As we pulled into the newly completed Beijing West Station, billed as the largest in Asia, I wondered how long it would take China to catch up with the developed world.

The journey certainly suggested large steps in the right direction. I asked a guard where the taxi rank was. He gave me a quizzical look. "You know." I said, "taxi" — gesturing as though handling a steering wheel.

"Oh yes," he said. "You mean mobile phone . . ."

Berth pains on the way to Beijing

I had waited a week for Lily to find me a ticket for the train from Guilin to Beijing. *Cath Urquhart writes.* Lily ran a café in Yangshuo, 50 miles from Guilin, and back in 1992, Yangshuo had already established itself as a haven for backpackers who were finding that independent travel in China could be a gruelling experience (see story left).

As a sideline, Lily would obtain train tickets for travellers. The problem was that of one system for locals and another for foreigners. There were then two currencies — we were always trying to change our "tourist money", FEC, on the black market for local renminbi, which went much further — and there were train ticket quotas for foreigners, too. Only six foreigners were supposed to join the Beijing train at Guilin, and these berths were booked up months in advance.

Lily finally wangled me a Chinese ticket. I could have been fined, but luckily no eyebrows were raised when I waved it at the guard as the train drew into Guilin, bang on time, at 1.20am. No one was allowed on to the platform until the train arrived, whereupon the gates from the waiting room were unlocked and we rushed aboard.

Stumbling over luggage and past sleeping forms, I found my berth, a top bunk. It was a good 8ft off the ground — the carriages were extremely tall as none of the berths folded down during the day — so I clambered up and went to sleep.

It would have been great to spend more of the 32-hour journey asleep, but my berth was positioned next to the speakers, which woke us with a blare of martial music at 6.20am. I struggled down to sit with my companions — three older women, a young woman who spoke a little English, and several men — and passed the day reading, watching field after field go by, and eking out the biscuits and noodles I had wisely brought with me.

I am usually happy to try our train food, but did not like the look of the unidentifiable meals served here — much of which ended up on the carriage floor, as the form was to spit out chewed bones.

Someone had smuggled a pekinese on board and it chose this moment to pee on my foot. I retreated to my berth and the stirring, tinny music.

The following morning we pulled into Beijing, on time to the minute at 9.15am. Two weeks later I was to leave the city on another train, bound for Mongolia. This one boasted a restaurant car with a mouth-watering, six-page menu in Chinese, Russian and English. What a treat! After much pondering I made an extensive choice, only to be told that everything was off the menu, bar one dish. Thus I left China fortified by a sizzling plate of fried eggs.

It's Minnie Mao's Café

The small town of Yangshuo is a top tourist venue, says **Katherine Tanko**

It is early evening and Yangshuo's open-air cafés are abuzz with activity. To the strains of Bob Marley and Oasis, ageing hippies, young students and gap-year backpackers gather round rickety tables swilling Coca-Cola and eating pizzas.

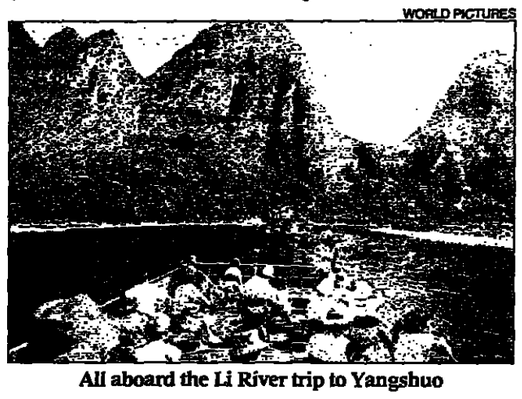
It is the sort of thing one might find on the tourist trails of Kuta or Kathmandu. But Yangshuo is a remote town in China's southern Guangxi province, its flagstone streets more suited to horse-drawn carts than hiking boots and Nikes. Yet in the past ten years, this small country town of 30,000 has become one of China's top tourist destinations, attracting hundreds of visitors each day with its mix of good food, friendly locals and rural charm. Its attractions are also obvious to anyone who has spent time on China's notoriously tough tourist trail.

On Xi Jie, a 200-metre strip of craft shops, cafés and budget hotels, every traveller's whim is catered for. There is Uncle Bob's travel centre, where you can arrange tours or book a river cruise. Across the street is Minnie Mao's Café — with a signboard featuring Minnie Mouse in a Mao cap — that does a sideline in Mandarin lessons. You can hire a bicycle, go cormorant fishing or ride an inner-tube down the Li River. Eateries serve up hearty noodle soups, delicious stir-fries and international favourites from muesli and yoghurt to lasagna and burritos. There is even cappuccino.

One of the reasons for Yangshuo's success lies 50 miles upstream: the city of Guilin. Famous throughout China for the beauty of its karst rock landscape, it has attracted visitors since the 7th century. But the city that once inspired artists and poets is today a teeming metropolis full of modern buildings and exhaust-belching cars. As a result, most of the visitors will at some point join one of the many riverboats that ply the Li River and sail south to Yangshuo.

Beyond its souvenir stalls selling Mao T-shirts and Qing dynasty caps complete with pigtails, Yangshuo has a life of its own. Rotary tractors headed for the fields putter noisily down cobbled streets; smiling citizens gossip and haggle at the morning market; and even the sales staff at the state department store are friendly.

WORLD PICTURES



All aboard the Li River trip to Yangshuo

CHINA BY TRAIN

■ China Travel Service (0171-836 9911) has tickets for the Hong Kong-Beijing train. There are three grades: deluxe (£135), soft sleeper (£110), hard sleeper (£80). Deluxe is a two-berth compartment, soft sleeper is four-berth, hard sleeper is eight-berth. Book well in advance for deluxe; hard sleeper is fairly uncomfortable.

■ Timetable: Departs Kowloon Station in Hong Kong every other day at 3pm; arrives West Beijing Station the following day at 8.55pm.

■ Route: Shenzhen, Changping, Guangzhou, Changsha, Wuhan, Zhengzhou, Shijiazhuang, Beijing.

■ Alternative: The Hong Kong-Shanghai train departs every other day at 3pm from Kowloon Station; arrives the next day at 8.18pm. Deluxe tickets £115, soft sleeper £90, hard sleeper £70. Also available from China Travel Service.

YANGSHUO FACT FILE

■ The nearest airport is Guilin, from where you can organise a day-trip down the Li River to Yangshuo by tour boat for about £50. Buses (no need to book), from Guilin bus station, are a cheaper (less than £10) and quicker option. Direct international flights to Guilin are not possible from the UK.

■ Trailfinders (0171-938 3939) offers a return via Hong Kong for £569 until June 20 or via Beijing for £752 until June 30.

■ More information: China National Tourist Office (0171-935 9787).

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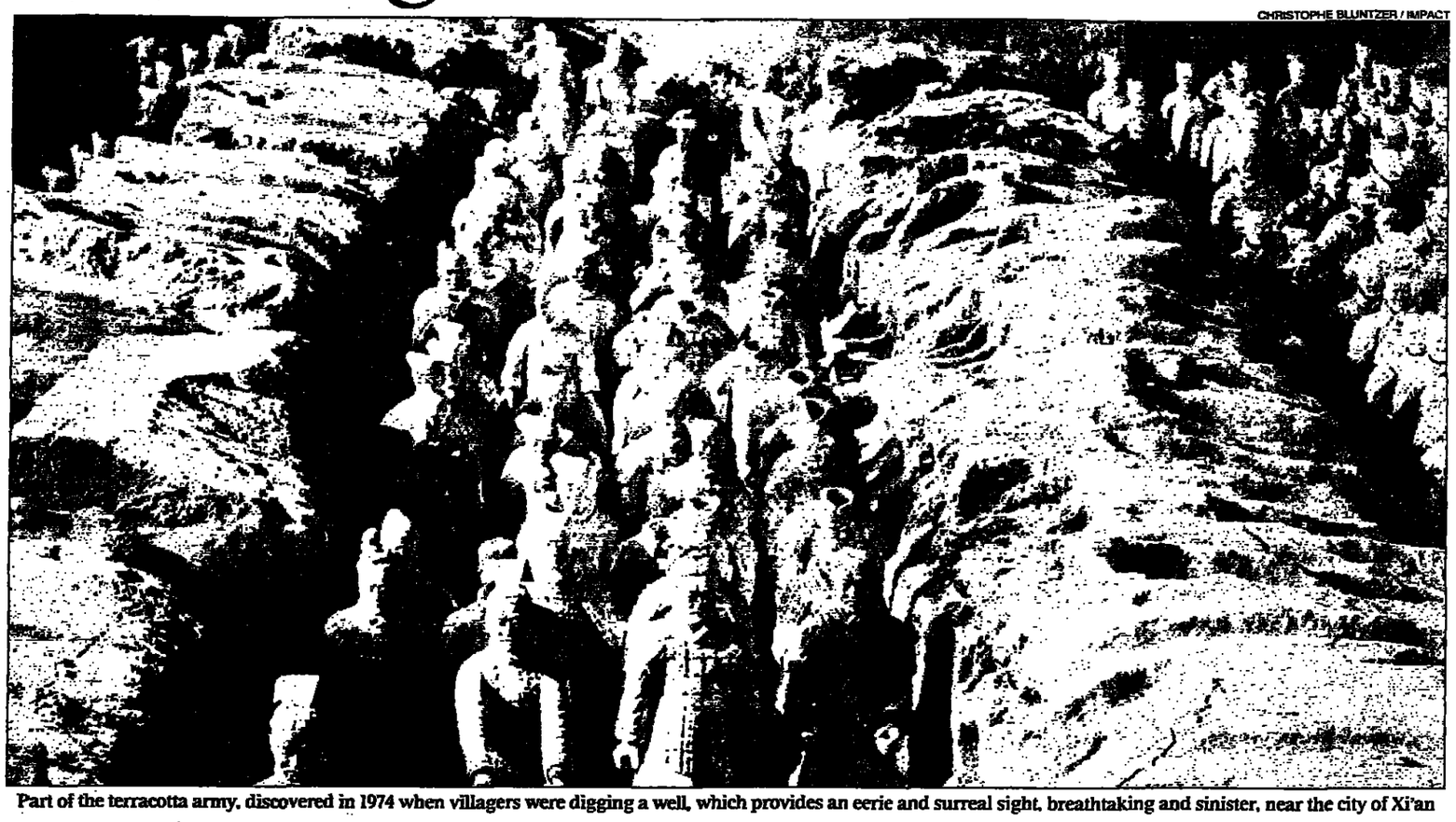
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CHINA: FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER

City where a night out costs a fiver

Mike Gerrard visits Xi'an, the start of the Silk Road, where he is awed by archaeology and shakes hands with history

CHRISTOPHE BLUNTZER / IMPACT



Part of the terracotta army, discovered in 1974 when villagers were digging a well, which provides an eerie and surreal sight, breathtaking and sinister, near the city of Xi'an

In March 1974 the Wei River was running dry and there was a drought around the village of Xiyang, 600 miles southwest of Beijing. A few villagers were sinking an experimental well when one of them, Yang Xin Man, struck something with his pick. It was a terracotta soldier, part of a terracotta army of almost 8,000 figures that had been buried for 2,000 years. It was perhaps the greatest archaeological find of the century.

The terracotta soldiers, with horses and chariots, had been built to guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of a unified China. It was Qin who began building the Great Wall, who created a single Chinese script, rationalised weights and measures, adopted a single currency and gave his name to the nation (Qin is pronounced Chin).

Yet he also burnt all books that were not either of practical use or about himself, and slaughtered their authors. The terracotta army was created to protect him in death but, in the anarchy that reigned after he died in 204 BC, his artificial army was raided for the real weapons its soldiers were carrying, and the burial pits in which they were standing caved in. The silent warriors lay there until Mr Yang fortuitously came along with his pick-axe.

That accidental discovery is why the nearby city of Xi'an (pronounced She-anne) is second only to Beijing on the Chinese tourist itinerary. The pity is that few tours allow more than a fleeting glimpse of one of the most attractive and fascinating of Chinese cities, the historic start, or end, of the Silk Road. It has a Muslim quarter, markets and museums, towers and temples and stunning city walls — which Paul Theroux describes in *Riding the Iron Rooster* as the only city walls he has ever seen that really look able to repel an invasion.

The walls were built in 1370 and run for more than eight miles in an almost complete rectangle around the city centre. The longest continuous stretch is three miles, so it would take an hour to walk, dodging the bicycles as you go (many people use the lane that runs along the top of the wall as a traffic-free way of getting around). The walls are nearly 60ft thick at their base, and 40ft high, and are lit like a gigantic pagoda at night. As well as being a place to practise t'ai chi in the mornings, they are a great aid to navigation.

After a tour of the town I walk back towards the East Gate and our hotel. In a little park near the Bell Tower, built in 1582 and now the hub of a huge roundabout, two teenage girls ask me if I will take a photograph of them together. "My former classmate lives in Xi'an so I have come to visit her," one of them tells me. I ask her if she likes the city. "I have not been here long enough to see the sights so I have not yet formed an opinion," she says.

From a kiosk, two children giggle and shout "hello, hello", and I buy a bottle of beer from their smiling mother. It costs 42p or six yuan, is brewed by the Tsingtao Brewery Xi'an Co Ltd, and tastes wonderful in the heat. Back in my room a notice to guests reminds me that "Prostitution, whoredom, gambling, drug taking, drug dealing and anything obscene are fobiden (*sic*)."

Content with more conventional pleasures, I had arranged to go for a meal with a fellow traveller, an Australian called Brian. We choose a place recommended by the Lonely Planet guide and get the hotel receptionist to write the name down in Chinese script. A taxi costs us 42p, but the restaurant has closed for the night. It is, after all, 8.30pm and many places close by nine. A young lad is summoned and leads us to Dong Dajie (the main shopping street) and the Xianghelou Roast Duck Restaurant. He politely refuses the tip we offer. There are Formica tables and few other diners as we head for the 9pm watershed. We order chicken in peanut sauce, squid and pork and, being civilised, share a duty-free bottle of buttery Blue Pyrenees 1995 chardonnay that Brian has brought with him and that we have chilled in the fridge.

Outside, a young man and woman ask if we would like a free beer. An image of a Soho dive springs to mind, but Brian is keen, so we risk the Paris Bar in a nearby basement. It is quite plush with chintzy armchairs and a small stage on which a duo with a saxophone and Yamaha keyboard are playing lazy jazz. The free beers arrive, two mouthfuls each and, just as we are intended to, we order some more.

A young man sings *Unchained Melody* ("lonely rivers flow; to the sea, to the sea . . .") and when he has finished I buy him a beer. The waitress comes back and tells us the singer would like to thank his foreign friends. The bill comes to 46 yuan (£3.20). Our night on the town, with another taxi back, has cost us a fiver each.

Next day it is the terracotta tour, stopping off on the way at the Banpo Museum. Here in 1953 the remains of a neolithic village were found, dating from 5000 BC. It is the finest example in the world of an agricultural neolithic settlement, the foundations of the houses displayed in a hanger-like building. All the graves discovered are for females, giving rise to speculation that this was a matriarchal society. The guide tells us they still have a system in parts of China known as *Azhu* marriage. "It happens in mountain areas near the Vietnam border," he explains. "An Azhu marriage is where, if a woman wants to marry, she simply puts a sign on her door."

From Banpo we drive to the terracotta army, and although it is often the case that the more you look forward to something, the less it pleases, these soldiers are a noble exception. There is an awed silence in the vast darkness of the main building, where you look down on more than a thousand of these lifelike figures, each one different, arranged row after row as if they are marching towards you. Those at the front have been restored, while in the rear they have been left the way they were found — crumbling jumbles of arms and legs, bits of torsos sticking out of the soil and dust. It is an eerie and surreal sight, breathtaking and beautifully sinister. And all found by Mr Yang, who now sits in the bookshop posing for photos and signing postcards. He inscribes a book for me and hands me a certificate which states: "The First Man discovered the Eighth Wonder in the world — Mr Yang Xin Man."

Despite being corny and touristy, and despite the fact that one guidebook points out that there is usually another Mr Yang in another bookshop nearby, I shake my Mr Yang's hand and feel that I am shaking hands with history.

● *Mike Gerrard won the award for consumer travel writing at the Travelex Travel Writers' Awards last month.*

Take me to Butterfly Spring

HELEN LEUDAR



Tom buys a bagful of local cigars for a few pence in the market at Dali

A constant flow of hiking boots is beating a new tourist trail along the southwest fringe of China. One area benefiting from this is Dali, at the foot of the Himalayas between Erhai Lake and the 4,120m peaks of the Cangshan Mountains. Known as China's Switzerland, Dali has become particularly popular with hikers and backpackers, who enjoy the mountains (which stretch for 30 miles) and its waterfalls and streams.

I went backpacking and met dozens of others who had taken advantage of rock-bottom air fares. On the 30-hour train from Guilin to Kunming — travelling west to Dali — I bumped into Tom, 25, and Sam, 21, from South London, who were in the middle of an impromptu Chinese lesson with the locals. Tom was about to embark on a two-year lecturing job in Colorado and had brought his brother Sam for a taste of Asia. Sam said: "We've got three months, but we've got Vietnam and San Francisco to go."

Confusingly, Dali is split into two sections. Xiaguan, the modern town, sits at the base of Erhai Lake, one of only seven freshwater lakes in China. The nearby Jizu Shan Mountains are an impressive backdrop and offer great views over the water. If you are into temples this is the place to come — there are 36 of them (and 72 convents) along the mountain top and the climb has been an annual pilgrimage for Buddhist monks since the 7th century.

Most people, however, end up in the Old Town of Dali, ten miles up the road. It is a daytripper's paradise, with loads of picnic spots — such as the clear pool at Butterfly Spring to the north. If you can't face the walk, there is a cable car stretching 1,670m over the treetops and rising to 478m for an impressive view. The upper station is connected to the ancient Zhonghe Temple and there is an 11-mile trek back down through the pine forest.

On the other side of Dali, hire a bike and explore the numerous tiny Bai villages — one of the local minority groups — which line the lakefront. There are boats to the smaller islands off the eastern shore — if you cannot face haggling with one of the fishermen, the China International Travel Service in Dali can arrange day trips for about £15.

The hangout for Westerners is the No 4 Guesthouse (aka Yu'an Garden Hotel) at the end of Huguo Lu (Foreigner Street) whose main attraction (apart from the red lantern bar and well-kept garden) is free washing machines.

Dali caters for most of the usual tourist whims: cheap massages (£3.70) for an hour, shoe-shine (23p) and a selection of life's essentials such as Hobnobs, M&Ms and Kellogg's Froot Loops.

"So much for getting away from it all," shrugged Tom as he stepped into an Internet Café to check his e-mails.

HELEN LEUDAR

FACT FILE

■ **Getting there:** Trailfinders (0171-938 3939) has flights to Kunming via Bangkok from £462. It also has flights to Beijing from £295. There are buses to Dali from Kunming (tickets about £3.50); it is an 11-hour journey, but the sleeper buses are comfortable. Local bus from Xiaguan to Dali's Old Town costs 7p and takes about 15 minutes.

■ **Package trip:** Exodus (0181-675 5550) has a 22-day Yunnan Explorer tour that includes two-and-a-half days in Dali from £1,745; return flights from London to Kunming, all accommodation and most meals included. Pagodas, Bai villages and temples are visited during the stop-off in Dali.

■ **Bike hire:** From 40p a day from the Camelia No 2 Guesthouse. Keep your tyres pumped up: bike repairers charge foreigners 40p, but they are hard to find.

■ **Further information:** China National Tourist Office (0171-935 9787).

HOW TO VISIT XI'AN

■ Mike Gerrard travelled with The Imaginative Traveller (0181-742 3113; or 0181-742 3049 for a brochure) whose three-week China Adventure and Silk Road tours visit Xi'an. Forthcoming China Adventure tours depart from Beijing (and end in Hong Kong) on April 20, May 11, June 1, June 22 and July 13 and cost £1,480. Silk Road tours leave Beijing (and end in Islamabad) on May 30, July 11, August 22 and cost £1,560. Prices exclude international flights but include internal travel, accommodation and some meals.

■ Getting there: Until April 30 Trailfinders (0171-938 3939) is offering flights from London to Beijing and back from Hong Kong for £321; London to Beijing returning from Islamabad is £908 (both prices include tax). British Airways (0345 222111) and Air China (0171-630 0919) fly twice weekly to Beijing. Other options include KLM (0990 750900) via Amsterdam, Lufthansa (0345 737747) via Frankfurt, and Singapore Airlines (0181-747 0007) via Singapore.

■ Red tape: A single-entry 30-day tourist visa costs £25 from the Chinese Embassy (Visa Section), 31 Portland Place, London W1B 3AH (0171-631 1430).

■ Health: No inoculations required, but hepatitis A and rabies are recommended. Consult your GP. Drink bottled rather than tap water. Some travellers may suffer stomach upsets due to the different diet.

■ Further reading: *China, Including Hong Kong and Macau* (Rough Guides, £15.99) and *China: A Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £16.99) are both recommended. Xi'an is well covered in *China: the Silk Routes* by Peter Neville-Hadley (Cadogan, £15.99), and naturally in *Xi'an* by Simon Holledge (Odyssey, £9.95). Travel literature includes Paul Theroux *Riding the Iron Rooster* (Penguin, £7.99), Colin Thubron *Behind the Wall* (Penguin, £6.99).

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In our monthly series on great museums of the world, Martin Symington views the Gulbenkian collection

MARIO OLIVEIRA



The Gallery of Islamic Art, in the Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon, is spacious, airy and light, showing off the collection to best advantage

CAPITAL MUSEUMS



Henri Fantin-Latour's little-known *Still-Life* is a gem

My first tingle of awakened imagination came in the Gallery of Islamic Art. This place, I suddenly realised, was more than a collection of exhibits. The gallery is spacious, airy and light, its extensive floors laid with the exquisite Persian carpets that once covered floors in the palaces of sultans and emirs. Tall windows look out on to a green pond and mossy bank shaded by trees. I was in an oasis.

In an alcove, a 14th-century Syrian glass mosque lamp, gilded and enamelled with azure, stands in front of a window giving on to a courtyard lush with ferns and birds of paradise flowers. Look through the opaque lamp and you see distorted images of green and blue light, dancing with spangles of orange. "You see now?" asked my guide, Maria Deolinda. "The Muslim image of heaven is a garden, with flowing water, beneath the stars." Then she translated for me the Koranic verse, inscribed in Arabic on the lamp: *God is the light of the heavens and the earth; the likeness of His light is as a niche wherein is a lamp, the lamp in a glass, the glass as if it were a glittering star.*

"Mr Gulbenkian used to say that he wept when he saw this lamp for the first time," said Maria softly.

Calouste Gulbenkian (1869-1955) was the Bill Gates of his time. An Armenian born in Turkey, he studied engineering at King's College London then travelled in the Middle East, where he developed a strange and unlikely theory. Petroleum, he predicted in a book published in 1891 when he was just 22, would become the principal energy source of the next century. The internal combustion engine would transform transport and industry, sweeping away reliance on steam.

Prophetic stuff. Gulbenkian was also convinced that untold reserves of oil lay beneath the sands of the Middle East. He formed a corporation which eventually splintered into companies such as Shell, BP, Esso and Mobil — and he retained a 5 per cent stake in each. As the 20th century progressed, "Mr Five-Per-cent", as Gulbenkian was nicknamed, became the world's wealthiest man.

This gave him the wherewithal to indulge his greatest passion — collecting what he regarded as the finest works of art ever created. During the Second World War, he took refuge in neutral Portugal, where he lived for the remainder of his life. He bequeathed his collection to a charitable foundation, stipulating that it be based in Lisbon and that all the works be housed under the same roof.

The museum opened in 1969, in a specially built grey concrete building, ugly from the outside but set in beautifully landscaped water gardens. Inside, the atmosphere is relaxed and easy-going. The most obvious way round is to start chronologically in the Egyptian and Graeco-Roman rooms and progress through the Islamic and Oriental galleries, to European art. But if you are the sort of person who flicks through magazines backwards, begin with the Lalique collection of art nouveau jewellery, then head, via Monet, Manet, Turner, Gainsborough and Rubens, towards the French gold, silver and furniture, and collections of ivory diptychs and illuminated medieval manuscripts. You may wander at will with easy access to the exhibits — there are no cordons or "don't touch" notices and officialdom and security are very low-key. (I am told that this is a clever illusion.)

What makes the Gulbenkian one of the world's most important collections of art — and one which every foreign dignitary visiting Lisbon is taken to see — is that every piece in it was chosen not only as an absolute superlative, but as a personal treasure. Each object is exquisitely displayed and lit. And it being such an unfussy and relatively small museum, you begin to feel on intimate terms with a plethora of masterpieces.

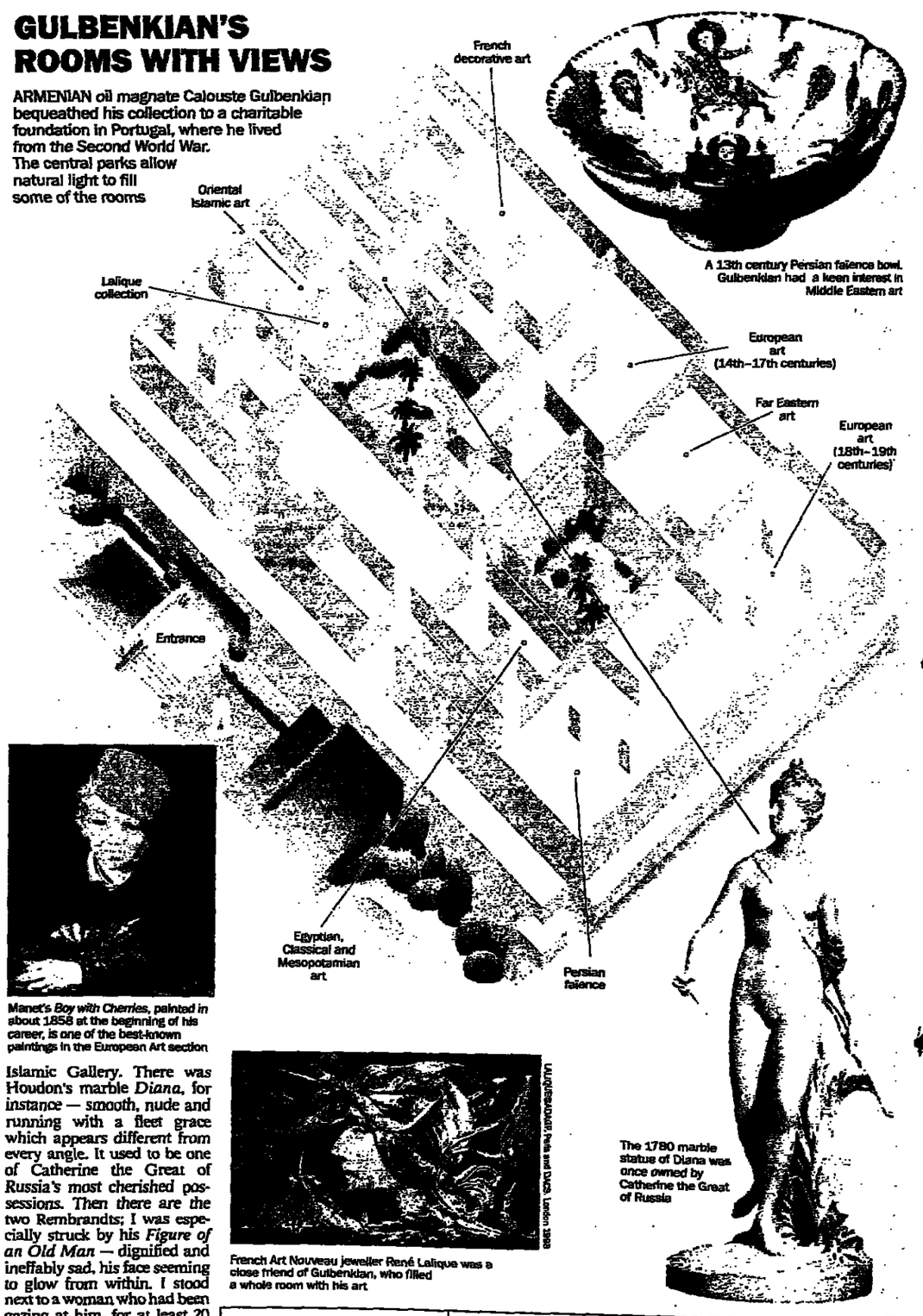
I was treated to several more eye-opening experiences of the kind that had awed me in the Islamic Gallery. There was Houdon's marble *Diana*, for instance — smooth, nude and running with a fleet grace which appears different from every angle. It used to be one of Catherine the Great of Russia's most cherished possessions. Then there are the two Rembrandts; I was especially struck by his *Figure of an Old Man* — dignified and ineffably sad, his face seeming to glow from within. I stood next to a woman who had been gazing at him, for at least 20 minutes. "How *tragic*," she said simply, in an American accent. I fully understood what she meant.

I returned several times during my visit to the little-known *Still Life* by Henri Fantin-Latour. It is an extraordinarily life-like painting of ripe peaches and raspberries whose colours, texture and juiciness actually made me salivate.

My only criticism of the Gulbenkian is the minimal labelling, which can leave you lost if you haven't invested in a guidebook. "Look at this one Matt, one little guy's peeing on another!" Australian backpacker Helena called to her boyfriend. Her eye had been drawn to a whimsical detail in a 16th-century Italian silk tapestry of frolicking cupids and nymphs. I lent them my catalogue, and they were soon lapping up theories about the significance of childish homoeroticism in Renaissance Mantua.

GULBENKIAN'S ROOMS WITH VIEWS

ARMENIAN oil magnate Calouste Gulbenkian bequeathed his collection to a charitable foundation in Portugal, where he lived from the Second World War. The central parks allow natural light to fill some of the rooms



A 13th century Persian faience bowl. Gulbenkian had a keen interest in Middle Eastern art

Manet's *Boy with Cherries*, painted in about 1858 at the beginning of his career, is one of the best-known paintings in the European Art section

French Art Nouveau jeweller René Lalique was a close friend of Gulbenkian, who filled a whole room with his art

The 1780 marble statue of Diana was once owned by Catherine the Great of Russia

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE GULBENKIAN MUSEUM



The museum's benefactor, Calouste Gulbenkian

■ What to see if you are in a hurry: start at the Egyptian Art entrance and do the carpets and the mosque lights in the Gallery of Islamic Art; *The Barge of Venus* tapestry; Houdon's marble sculpture of *Diana*; the Rembrandts; *Quilleboeuf, Mouth of the Seine* by Turner; the Lalique collection.

■ Hidden gems: *Still Life* by Henri Fantin-Latour; a delightful pair of mustard barrels, on wheelbarrows pushed by graceful cupids, by the French goldsmith Antoine Durand.

■ Worth missing out: I found the French furniture rather stuffy.

■ Survival guide: Avoid Saturdays and Sundays. On any other day, the museum can be almost deserted between 1pm and 3pm. If you see a large party going in one entrance, choose another.

■ Recovery zones: There are leather seats to sit and admire the exhibits when it is not too crowded. There is a rest area between the Far Eastern Art and Ivory room and Illuminated Books room. Alternatively, take a break on the grass or a bench outside in the Calouste Gulbenkian Park.

■ Food and drink: The museum's self-service cafeteria is large and airy, if a touch characterless, and serves good snacks at reasonable prices (e.g. pastries 50p, sandwiches 80p and delicious, strong coffee 30p). Also beer and wine. There are several cafés and restaurants within a few minutes' walk of the museum. Try the Café Cervejeria on Rua Aquiles Machado just across the park, for a snack, or Polícia nearby on Rua Masques Sá de Bandeira, for more substantial traditional Portuguese food.

■ Guidebooks: It is essential to have one, as the labelling and explanations are minimal. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's official guide for sale at the entrance is a rip-off at Esc. 3,000 (about £9.50). Much better value is the cumbersome but far more comprehensive *Museums Discovered: The Calouste Gulbenkian Museum* by Rona Goffen (Woodbine Books) for Esc. 4,500 (about £14). Among the general guide books to Portugal, *The Rough Guide* by Mark Ellingham, John Fisher and Graham Kenyon (Rough Guides £9.99) and *Lonely Planet* by Julia Wilkinson and John King (Lonely Planet £10.99) have good introductions to the Gulbenkian, while the turgid *Blue Guide to Portugal* by Ian Robertson (A&C Black, £12.99) is the most erudite.

■ Special exhibitions: *Art and the Sea* from May 18 to August 30, coincides with Expo '98 (May 22-Sept 30).

■ Essential information: Museu Calouste Gulbenkian, Avenida de Berna 45, 1067 Lisboa, (00 351 1 793 5131, e-mail *apg@gulbenkian.puug.pt* Website: *http://www.gulbenkian.pt*). Open 10am-5pm every day except Mondays and public holidays. Entrance Esc. 500 (about £1.60), free on Sundays, children and students free. Disabled access is good, with ramps and wheelchair loan on request (best to phone beforehand to confirm availability).

■ Getting there: Martin Symington travelled with TAP Air Portugal (0171-828 0262) which has return flights from Heathrow to Lisbon from £156 per person (conditional upon two people travelling together and a Saturday night stay; includes airport taxes and three days' car hire), valid for April 13-May 15 and May 25-July 16.

■ Further information: Portuguese National Tourist Office, 22-25a Sackville Street, London W1X 1DE (0171-494 1441).

● *Expo '98 opens in Lisbon next month. Don't miss our travel pages next week for a guide to making the most of the festival.*



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The Caledonian

The agony and ecstasy of capoeira

Jeannette Hyde visits Brazil to whirl with the experts in a frenzied dance



SUE CUNNINGHAM

White trousers, bare chests, strange music and men lunging at each other with spinning kicks are the signs that a capoeira dance is on. It breaks out everywhere — on the beaches and at street corners

Evening classes can be dangerous. They can start off as light relief from daytime work and turn into life-altering obsessions. It happened to me.

I first discovered capoeira in the listings in *Time Out* magazine. Described as a Brazilian dance mixed with acrobatics and martial arts performed to music, it sounded exotic and challenging, and was intriguing enough to lure me out on a winter's night.

Two years later I found myself scrounging seven weeks off work, raiding my life savings and persuading my boyfriend, Markus, to chuck in his job to visit the Brazilian capoeira capital, Salvador.

The city is in Bahia, a sun-drenched cultural and musical Mecca, home to all Brazil's greatest musicians, including Gilberto Gil and Caetano Veloso. The country's best-loved author, Jorge Amado, sets his novels there. Even Michael Jackson turned up a couple of years ago to make a pop video.

Brazilian friends are astonished that capoeira exists in England. My Rio e-mail penpal Daniella wrote: "I just cannot imagine the sight of floury English people dancing capoeira in cold London. I can imagine nothing stranger." I tried to picture her morris dancing in Rio to understand her cultural confusion.

Capoeira originated with African slaves in Brazil, who dressed up their fighting practice as a dance to confuse their masters. The Portuguese thought the circle with two slaves jigging up and down and doing acrobatics to percussion music was a happy-clappy event. Little did they realise their slaves were conditioning their minds and bodies for escape. Today's *capoeiristas* do it for fitness and fun, rather than freedom.

Two opponents cartwheel into a ring called a *roda*, made up of players sitting before a row of musicians playing tambourines, drums and three berimbau instruments. These one-string fishing rods (from Angola) are balanced on the little finger and played with a stick, a stone and a bean-filled rattle. Two people play in the ring, showing off acrobatics without touching or injuring each other. They lunge at each other with spinning kicks and dodge with quick getaway moves. The most skilful *capoeiristas* display their control by playing with razor blades between their toes.

It is hard to avoid capoeira in Salvador. Within minutes of arriving in Pelourinho, the historic Portuguese colonial centre of Salvador, I realised that the whole fabric of society incorporates this art form. Where else would you find phone booths in the shape of a berimbau, or Christmas decorations of flashing neon capoeira figures?

It makes a change from home, where people don't have a clue what I'm talking about. Usually they mis-hear and think I'm discussing Tupperware — not the London School of Capoeira.

Roberto Mercees, a local guide, told me: "Every Bahiano does a little football and a little capoeira."

You don't have to visit a capoeira school to realise Bahianos play a lot of capoeira. White trousers, bare chest and berimbau are the giveaway signs. By the public fountains, on the beaches and at street corners, men break out into cartwheels and somersaults before continuing their business as if nothing has happened. No wonder New Yorkers copied capoeira from Brazilian immigrants. It is claimed that, thanks to Bahianos spinning on their heads in the ghettos, breakdancing emerged.

We were greeted at every capoeira school with a mix of open arms and astonishment. Our first stop was a community centre at the end of a sandy village in a beach resort, Praia do Forte, one hour from Salvador. We found the teacher sweeping the sandy floor and clearing space between discarded paint palettes, easels and broken chairs. We introduced ourselves to the 29-year-old dreadlocked, rippling-muscled, bare-chested figure with diamond nose stud, white nylon hipster trousers and flip-flops.

A dozen barefooted, bare-chested students trickled in (average age 20, agility to match any world champion athlete). They left their balding flip-flops in a pile in the corner. Haunting berimbau music filled the room. The athletes — local fishermen, electricians, drivers and shopkeepers — punched the air with spinning kicks and clapped their feet while standing on their heads. A 19-year-old with a talent for cartwheeling on his elbows asked us: "How many somersaults can you do?" He was surprised when I said: "None."

I was relieved by the arrival of another female — a blonde from Rio on a work placement at a turtle preservation farm. Like most capoeiristas, she had been given an unpolitically-correct capoeira nickname — Boneca (doll).

Master Fuampa made us stand in a line. We joined the students in a strange ritual. Dressed in white, they beat their chests while staring at the straw roof and shouting *saude* (health) before lining up in rows to copy Fuampa, who is to capoeira what Joaquin Cortes is to flamenco.

Sweat formed puddles on the cracked terracotta tiles. Eyes and fingers peeped around the latticed door and through the windows. Villagers were lining up for a glimpse of us two clumsy *gringos* attempting capoeira.

Fuampa crouched into a ball with one elbow pressed into his hip to lift his body into the air, the side of his face pressing the floor. "*Queda de rins*" ("kidney to elbow") he shouted, and all the students copied him, left side first then back on to their feet before swooping down to do the same movement on the other side.

I collapsed in a pile on the floor. My wrists could not support my body any more. My elbow dug uncomfortably into my hip bone. All the boys were sweeping up and down doing the kidney-face-against-the-floor thing as if it was the most natural position in the world.

Two hours later the agony and ecstasy were over. About 100 press-ups for the boys, 200 stomach curls for the girls.

Fuampa says he gives free classes at a local nursery in a bid to break down some of the discrimination against capoeira. "Some people think it is a bit dangerous," he told us. At the beginning of this century dancing the capoeira was a criminal offence punishable with the amputation of an arm or leg.

Brazil was the last country in the world to abolish slavery, in 1888. The authorities felt threatened by the power that capoeira gave the freed blacks, and sought to stamp it out.

But today capoeira is booming. The most popular variety is Regional — the high-flying fast type practised by the likes of Fuampa and testosterone-filled teenage boys. Regional was created by Master Bimba in the 1930s. He decided to incorporate fast, kung fu-style high, spinning kicks into the game. The original style, known as Angola, is slower, more graceful and full of crawling on the floor.

The living legend of Angola, Master Joao Pequeno (Little John) can still be found passing on his secrets at evening classes in a derelict fort in Santo Antônio in Salvador. We found the 80-year-old hard of hearing, but not short of stamina, when we entered the slummy fort at dusk. Homeless families were huddled inside the iron-barred rooms. Scraggy dogs and children wandered the fort's central courtyard, dissecting rubbish piles for scraps. They stared at the arrival of two gringos in white London School of Capoeira T-shirts and trousers — one with a notebook and the other a camera.

> 'The dance was a crime that could cost an arm or a leg'

The air was filled with the eerie sound of several berimbaus and a slow drum beat.

Inside a doorway we saw the fingerprint-pawed, peppermint-coloured, cracked walls and bare concrete floor which give the room an institutional air.

A dozen figures formed a tight circle. A row of students played percussion while two danced in the centre. Dressed in a white cloth cap and Nikes, Joao Pequeno was plucking the berimbau, singing the Ladainha — the introductory song to the game. It was a mournful tale of a slave dreaming of freedom, escaping his captors and joining a *quilombo* — one of the secret jungle communities for runaways.

The students replied with a powerful chorus praising their master and all who taught them capoeira. Joao Pequeno lowered his berimbau, fisherman-style, into the centre of the circle to signal the entrance of two players, or the exit of two others.

The game ended about 90 mesmerising minutes later when the rhythm reached fever pitch and the room was filled with 20 toe-tapping homeless spectators lured in by the frenzy of the game.

Joao Pequeno, twanging his berimbau and singing with all his might, led the players, tambourine bashers and drum players around the room, out into the dark courtyard and beyond into the warm night.

The procession disappeared from the room leaving us facing a bare lamp bulb and a smiling picture of Joao standing on his head.

MARKUS HOHL

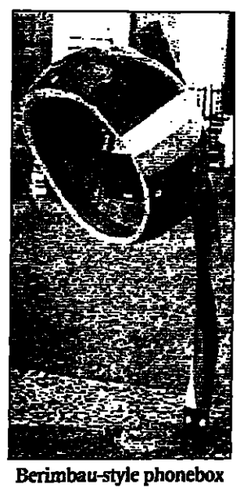


A Brazilian *capoeirista* in mid cartwheel

HOW TO GET TO BRAZIL AND WHERE TO DANCE

■ **Getting there:** Jeannette Hyde flew from Heathrow to Rio de Janeiro with British Airways (0345 222111), which has return flights starting at £819 until the end of May. She took a bus from Rio to Salvador, which cost £35 for the 28-hour trip. Trailfinders (0171-938 3939) has prices in May starting at £548, flying Iberia via Madrid. Varig Brazilian Airlines (0171-287 3131) has an airpass costing $540 (£325) which allows flights to five destinations in Brazil within 21 days. The pass can be bought only if international flights are with Varig or BA. Domestic airfares are expensive and the pass often works out cheaper.

■ **Where to stay:** In Salvador, the Hotel Pelourinho (00 55 71 321 4653) at Rua Aifredo Brito 20, is the most famous backpacker hotel in town. Shabby but cheap, it is in the old Portuguese colonial district. About $35 (£21) per room per night. Among mid-market hotels, the Bahia Othon Palace (55 71 247 1044) has double rooms for about $95 (£57). Praia do Forte: Praia do Forte Resort (55 71 876 1111) is about £200 per room a night, half-board: half price in low season (our summer).



Berimbau-style phonebox

■ **Where to learn capoeira in the UK:** the London School of Capoeira runs introductory courses (£75) and regular classes (£10 per session or £80 for ten) at The Place, 17 Dukes Road, London WC1H 9AB (0171-281 2020). Classes also in Manchester and Huddersfield.

■ **Where to learn capoeira in Salvador:** Academia de Joao Pequeno de Pastinha, Santo Antonio Fort, Santo Antonio (no phone — just turn up). Friday night from 7pm is the *roda* — music and dancing in the ring. Some students offer private classes. Also: Associacao de capoeira Mestre Bimba, Rua Francisco Muniz Barreto, 1 Centro Historico, Pelourinho, Salvador. Master Fuampa holds classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with a *roda* on Saturdays, at the cultural/community centre.

■ **What to wear:** White T-shirt and white baggy trousers. "Angola" schools practice in trainers, "Regional" barefoot.

■ **Reading:** *Capoeira: History, Philosophy and Practice*, by Bira Almeida (North Atlantic Books, £10.99); *The Little Capoeira Book*, by Nestor Capoeira (North Atlantic Books, £9.99); *Brazil — Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £11.95).

Island of Windmills & Wonders

PALMA DE MALLORCA

7 nights at the 3-star Santa Ana from £295 half board or upgrade to the 5-star Melia De Mar from £27 per night

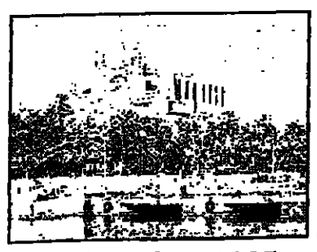
Palma de Mallorca - even though literally millions visit the island each year accommodations have been concentrated along the coast, whilst inland the island life goes on as it has always done. The island is an absolute delight to explore with numerous corners which are peaceful and outrageously beautiful and a local people who are well practised in the art of hospitality. We have chosen two hotels that are an ideal base from which to relax and to enjoy all that Mallorca can offer in being in a pleasant beach side location but close to the attractions of Palma itself.

SANTA ANA - Cala Mayor 3-star

This lovely hotel is located right on the beach at Cala Mayor only 5 kms from the capital Palma. The hotel comprises 199 rooms either with sea view or side sea view and full ensuite facilities and balcony. The public areas include a lounge, restaurant, beach bar for snacks, swimming pool, and lifts. Single rooms are with shower and WC.

MELIA DE MAR - Illetas 5-star

Located on its own beach and in lovely gardens the Hotel Melia De Mar is just a short drive from Palma.



7 nights from £295

Amongst the facilities offered is a swimming pool, tennis court and wide range of watersports. There is an excellent restaurant, bars, and comfortable lounges. The hotel has 144 rooms with terraces with sea view, full ensuite facilities, hairdryer, satellite TV, telephone, mini bar and air-conditioning.

DEPARTURES DATES & PRICES

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	Santa Ana	Melia De Mar
May 7, 14, 21, 28	£295	£485
June 4, 11, 18, 25	£295	£480
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£350	£555
August 6, 13, 20, 27	£350	£555
September 3, 10, 17, 24	£325	£585
October 1, 8, 15, 22	£325	£525

Extra Week: Santa Ana £125. Melia De Mar £385. Single Supplements on request.

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3 night tour inc Kandy and Nuwara Eliya: £89 to £99 extra

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26 Apr '98	£479	31 May	£419
03 May	£419	07 Jun	£429
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24 May	£449	28 Jun	£499

21 & 28 Apr: 12 nights £379 (depart Gatwick/return Heathrow)

The price includes: Return flights, UK Dept tax of £20-12 nts accom including full breakfast/dinner. Transfers. Optional 3 nt tour (if taken): all meals (2 nts) Kandy/Nuwara Eliya; breakfast Mt Lavinia (1 nt). Prices per person sharing twin. Not included: Local dept tax (approx £6). Optional insurance: £56. Booking conditions apply.

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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Glitterati winters

SANDY LANE, the Barbados hotel favoured by film stars, lottery winners and Spice Girls, closes next weekend for 18 months of refurbishment. On this page, we suggest suitably luxurious alternatives.

The temporary closure of Sandy Lane gives its neighbour and bitter rival, the 500-acre Royal Westmoreland, a chance to become the premier hotel in Barbados. There is a golf course, a 12-acre driving range, floodlit tennis courts and a gym and health spa.

More a club than a hotel, accommodation is in coral stone villas with maid service — some have cooks and private pools. Ian Woosnam, Mike Gatting, David Lloyd and Virginia Wade already have holiday homes here — you can buy one from about £243,000 to £750,000.

Caribbean Expressions (0171-431 2131) has 14 nights' room-only until July 11 from £2,290, including flights.

THE ability to serve brie and red wine at exactly the right temperatures on a tiny South Pacific island makes the Hotel Bora Bora a favourite hang-out for well-off travellers who like things done just right. This French Polynesian establishment has become a legend for its sybaritic simplicity and Gallic chic. Even die-hard philistines find themselves going native in a pareo with a hibiscus behind each ear.

There are lots of opportunities for one-upmanship: did you get one of the thatched bungalows on stilts over the lagoon with four-poster bed and brass fan? Or a garden villa with its own private pool? Did you swim with the sharks, go horse-riding, try deep-sea or fly-fishing?

Elegant Resorts (01244 897888) has 12 nights' room-only plus overnight stop-offs in Los Angeles and Tahiti in April from £3,110, including flights.

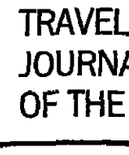
Luxurious life

PANGKOR LAUT stays aloof from the bustling mainland of Malaysia on its own 300-acre patch facing the Malacca Straits. Luciano Pavarotti, opening the hotel in 1993, declared: "I almost cried when I saw how beautiful God had made this paradise."

The 300 guests are pampered by 1,340 staff in a series of villas. Nine "private residences" are due to open in September, each with its own butler, chef, pagoda-style dining rooms, outdoor sunken baths and Far Eastern *objets d'art*. Definitely suitable for maharajas, movie moguls, expensive mistresses and, of course, weeping maestros.

Kuoni (01306 740500) has 14 nights' room-only from June 1 to June 15 from £1,465, including flights.

Coconut time



THE Duchess of York was first photographed with John Bryan, her then lover, at the Amanpuri Hotel in Phuket, Thailand, in 1992. Built in Thai temple-style on the site of a former coconut plantation, it is tucked away above the idyllic Pansea Beach on the island of Phuket. There is nothing so common as a room here — you have "pavilions", "superior pavilions" or "deluxe pavilions", with 30 private "villa homes" with live-in maids and cooks for the crème de la crème.

It also offers 20 cruisers and a classic wooden yacht with crew and cook, and branded clubs for the complimentary use of guests at the Blue Canyon Golf Club.

Should you tire of your pavilion, you can always nip down the coast to see how the other half holiday — among the massage parlours and gay bars of Patong.



Fly the yellow flag for room service on the island of Petit St Vincent in the Grenadines

Elegant Resorts (01244 897888) has 14 nights' room-only from May 16 to July 9 from £2,785, including flights.

Reef resort

TONY BLAIR'S meeting with Rupert Murdoch on Hayman Island, Australia, in the summer of 1995 helped raise the profile of this 30-acre island resort on the doorstep of the Barrier Reef. There is nothing ruggedly Oz about Hayman, from its wine cellar stocked with 20,000 bottles (400 vintages), to its Italian and Japanese kitchens or its "English", "Greek" or "Art Deco" penthouses. There is also a wedding chapel for those lulled by the resident harpist, candlelit balcony meals or dining cruises through the 74 Whitsunday Islands. Upmarket offspring have their own Hayman Kidz Club.

Sports, a spa and shopping arcades offer self-contained luxury — there is even a golf course on the mainland to which guests are ferried by helicopter.

Kuoni (01306 740500) has 14 nights' B&B from £2,586, including flights.

Sporty types

THE Four Seasons resort is on Pinney's Beach on the east coast of Nevis, part of the Leeward Islands. It has an 18-hole championship golf course, which is wrapped around the slopes of Mount Nevis and regarded as one of the most beautiful in the Caribbean — though you may find yourself under scrutiny from the odd goat or pig as you tee off.

There are 196 rooms, designed in traditional local style with tiled floors, marble bathrooms, terraces, ceiling fans and air conditioning. On Pinney's Beach, iced towels are pressed into your hot hands at regular intervals.

Dress code: designer label sportswear rather than gold jewellery and tuxedos. Attracts the well-heeled young rather than rich wrinklies.

Harlequin Travel (01708 852780) has 14 nights' room-only from June 1 to October 15 from £1,716, including flights.

THE Maldives are a brochure writer's dream: 1,100 "paradise" atolls with the common denominators of coconut palms, dazzling white beaches and turquoise lagoons encircled by reefs — plus a single hotel on each of about 200 of them. Kuda Huraa opened last September as "the ultimate escape". The whole island is only 12 acres, but has 106 beach villas, a gym, a health spa inspired by the Thai use of herbs, aromatics and massage, a bevy of watersports with a dive centre, big game fishing, plus the largest swimming pool in the Maldives, and three restaurants.

Elegant Resorts (01244 897888) has 14 nights' B&B from May 10 to June 30 from £1,615, including flights.

Serious style

PACK your Louis Vuitton luggage with posh frocks and stacks of dollar bills before you hit Malliouhana, on Anguilla, a mecca for the seriously rich seeking style and sophistication.

Six French chefs supervise the kitchens in high season, and the British-owned hotel is an oasis of lavish accommodation and mod cons with outdoor Jacuzzis, massive bedrooms, a gym and tennis courts. Anguilla's sands are the most dazzling in the Caribbean, and there are two freshwater pools. It is not for dusk-to-dawn party-goers; more for diner à deux.

Caribbean Connection (01244 341131) has 14 nights' room-only from June 1 to July 11 from £2,016, including flights.

Hide away

THERE is one hotel on the 113-acre island of Petit St Vincent in the Grenadines. It was built by owner Haze Richardson, who was washed up on its uninhabited shores on a yachting trip and created a hideaway for wealthy Crusoes. There are 22 luxury stone cottages, each with its own flagpole (the red flag means "leave us alone"). Fly the yellow flag if you want room service. Perfect for stressed executives: no telephones, televisions or room keys.

Caribbean Escapes (0171-581 3517) has 14 nights' full-board from May 1 to July 11 from £2,881, including flights.

● *All prices quoted in this piece are per person, based on two sharing a room.*

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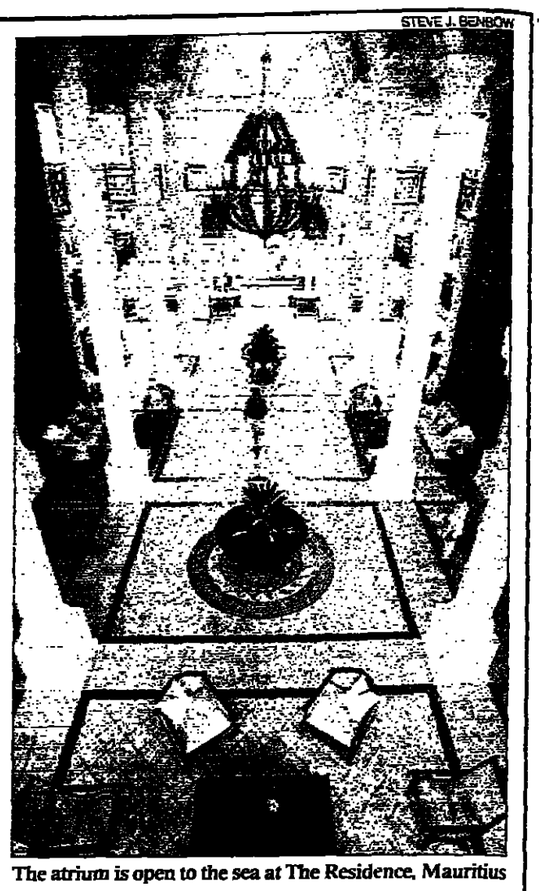
Elegant retreat for the wealthy

THERE are no charter flights to Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean, which keeps prices high and attracts the jet-set, *writes Cath Urquhart*. The Royal Palm is perhaps the most elegant hotel but it will close for refurbishment from May 1 to September 30.

The glitterati may head to Le Touessrok, on the east coast, where guests can retreat to the hotel's own private island: or to The Residence nearby, which I visited in February, just after it opened. Although the food was not yet five-star, the hotel is not likely to wait long for visitors to enter its striking atrium, which resembles the prow of a ship and is open to the sea.

Elegant Resorts (01244 897888) has 12 nights' half-board at Le Touessrok until July 14 from £2,075, including flights; 12 nights at The Residence from May 1 to July 14 is from £2,585, including flights. Kuoni (01306 743000) has two weeks' half-board at Le Touessrok until July 14 from £2,222.

STEVE J. BENBOW



The atrium is open to the sea at The Residence, Mauritius

Peaceful and politically correct

Our MPs enjoy holidaying in two luxury hotels in southern Morocco, says Katherine Bergen

New Labour, new leisure: while the Tories have traditionally favoured Italy and the South of France as holiday destinations, New Labour holidaymakers have a penchant for Morocco, in particular La Gazelle d'Or, a secluded hotel near Taroudannt, 50 miles east of Agadir. New Labourites such as John Mortimer decamp here for the new year. Tories like to stay at this hotel too, but the manager does not have to keep the peace between two warring camps. The Tories — including the likes of former Cabinet minister Michael Portillo — come here for Whitsun.

March seems to be a politically neutral time of year, however; we spent three nights and there was not a politician in sight. That may also have been a consequence of the hotel's layout, which permits seclusion within seclusion. Set in a fertile valley, the grounds are vast, with orange groves, bougainvillea and lush landscaped gardens. Dotted throughout are 30 villas, giving total privacy.

The dining room, bar and other reception rooms are housed in the main building and as the residents convene here at night — lunch is normally eaten by the pool — a house-party atmosphere is created. At drinks before dinner on our first night it became clear that many of the guests are regulars, known by name and treated as friends.

The food is modern Moroccan with nothing to alarm the palate. Tajine of chicken shares a place on the menu with beef carpaccio, roast lamb jostles with tomato and basil soup. The mint tea is made and poured by a true expert who received the Légion d'honneur from the President of France for his excellence.

Early March in Morocco is hotter than mid-July in Britain, with temperatures reaching the mid-80s during the day. But the evenings are chilly, so much so that we asked for a fire to be lit each night in our bedroom. Fireplaces are a feature in all the villas.



The restaurant at La Mamounia serves modern Moroccan cooking for the sophisticated palate

Bring books; do not bring children; but do have a hammam massage — the hotel offers these in-house. You discard all your clothes and a benign-looking woman approaches with a vicious-looking mitt. After much top-to-toe mitt-wielding your skin is left as pink and perfect as a baby's. You are then covered in mud and left to cook in the sauna. On the point of heat exhaustion (20 minutes or so) you are sluiced off with mercifully tepid water and invited to totter to a bed to recover. It is quite wonderful.

To reach Marrakesh from Taroudannt you have to travel about 125 miles north over the High Atlas Mountains. We were offered the chance to drive by the "scenic" route or the "fast" route. The fast route — around five hours — is scenic anyway. If you opt for the "scenic" route, allow the best part of a day.

La Mamounia is, by contrast with the Gazelle d'Or, a less languid, more lively place. Winston Churchill liked staying here, and the Churchill piano bar is one of four watering holes in the hotel. A more recent visitor was the head of Mossad, the Israeli secret service. The rooms are decorated in 1920s style and despite its size — there are 171 rooms and 51 suites — the hotel has a lot of character.

The fountains everywhere, inside and out, are strewn with rose petals and the grounds are so extensive that the hubbub of Marrakesh is muted, even though the hotel is only a five-minute walk from the Medina, the central square.

The hotel will arrange a guide to take you shopping in the souk. This is not for the faint-hearted. If you are easily embarrassed or irritated, forget it. You are constantly beseeched to enter shops, obliged to haggle upon entry and generally hassled. Many people love it. It certainly adds another dimension to souvenir shopping.

You will return home with the best intentions to cook tajine or chicken with preserved lemon. You probably will not do this, at least not successfully, but you are very likely to return to Morocco.

☐ **Katherine Bergen travelled to Morocco with Elegant Resorts (01244 897777).**

☐ **Seven nights' room-only at La Mamounia from June 15 to July 5 cost from £825 per person, including return flights to Marrakesh and private car transfers. Seven nights at the Gazelle d'Or from May 1 to July 5 are from £1,315 including full board, return flights to Agadir and car transfers. If not included in your package, the car transfer from Taroudannt to Marrakesh will cost from £140.**

☐ **When to go: being hot and dry, southern Morocco is a year-round destination, but with summer temperatures above 100F in Marrakesh and Taroudannt, it may be more comfortable between October and May.**

☐ **British passport holders do not need a visa.**

☐ **Morocco Tourist Information (0171-437 0073).**

SPECIAL OFFER

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MALDIVES: INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND

14 nights inc full breakfast & dinner

Bathala Island: Charming medium class island located in the Ari Atoll. A tropical hideaway with superb white sand beaches and clear, warm waters. Restaurant, bar, good watersports. 38 rooms in individual thatched cottages with ceiling fan and unheated water. (Price includes sea plane transfers).

Departures:	Price:	Departures:	Price:
11 May '98	£649	20 Jul	£879
18 May	£729	03 Aug	£1029
25 May	£649	17 Aug	£1029
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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD



PAUL SLATER/APEX

A stroll in the heather in Dartmoor National Park, the first in Britain to offer free guided walks to visitors who leave their cars at home and take the bus instead

Two legs good, four wheels bad

Britain's national park authorities have launched a series of schemes to encourage visitors to use public transport rather than cars this summer, *Tom Chesshyre writes.*

Free guided walks for public transport users, park and ride schemes, new bus services, reduced speed limits and improved cycle routes are being introduced after Easter holiday figures showed that more than 90 per cent of visitors had driven to some areas.

Dartmoor National Park is offering free guided walks for visitors who arrive by bus or train. From May 24, a family of four with public transport tickets could save up to £10. Dartmoor also plans to offer reductions in the price of bus and train tickets on Sundays for park-users from May 24, saving a family of four £20.

At the end of May, Exmoor National Park starts a subsidised bus for visitors on Sundays which drops them off at the start of paths, with guides.

And in Northumberland National Park, reduced entry prices to several tourist attractions will be available for those who take the Hadrian's Wall bus between Carlisle, Hexham and Newcastle from May 23 to September 27. A family of four could save £10.90.

The Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and Snowdonia are also introducing schemes to reduce traffic.

A spokesman for the Association of National Park Authorities said: "We have had to do these things because traffic increases have been causing congestion and putting the environment at risk."

● *Further information: Dartmoor National Park Visitors Centre 01822 890414; Devon Bus Information: 01392 382800; Exmoor National Park 01398 323841; Northumberland Travel: 01670 533128*



Clogging up our countryside — traffic queues around Widecombe in the Moor

Cool Britannia hits tourists in the pocket

An American couple were visiting Winchester Cathedral as part of a whistle-stop tour of Britain. Being in a tearing hurry — they probably had to cross off Wales before tea-time — they hit on a time-saving strategy. "You do the inside, honey, and I'll do the outside," drawled the husband.

Oh, how we love to sneer at our overseas visitors. The fat Americans who hog the pavement; the gaggles of Japanese who follow each other, sheep-like, around the countryside; the chain-smoking French students who hunt in packs.

But it's not so funny when they stop coming. The number of overseas tourists holidaying in Britain this year is set to drop by 6 per cent, and our tourist industry stands to lose half a billion pounds, according to that worthy — if unwieldy sounding — body, the British Incoming Tour Operators Association. The strong pound, and the collapse of some Asian currencies, are widely blamed.

There's plenty that Chancellor Gordon Brown could do to help our tourist industry. BITOA's chief executive Richard Tobias told me this week. A good start would be to reduce or abolish Air Passenger Duty — the nasty sting that adds £10 to European and £20 to long-haul flights out of Britain. Or how about reducing VAT on hotel rooms, which at 17.5 per cent is considerably higher than the European average of 12 per cent?

The situation is so desperate that the British Tourist Authority has published a leaflet, "Good Value Britain", for distribution abroad to potential visitors. But once they've seen the Changing of the Guard and visited the British Museum (which, like many museums, does not charge), the budget-conscious tourist finds matters take a turn for the worse: the leaflet's suggestions include watching the London Marathon, filling up on fish and chips or M&S sandwiches, or shopping at the factory outlets in Bicester. Given these prospects, I doubt that travel agents in Asia will be bracing themselves for the rush.

Perhaps one answer is to reduce the hefty admission fees charged by some of our most popular attractions. Adults pay £9.75 to visit Madame Tussaud's, £9.50 to visit the grave of Diana, Princess of Wales, at Althorp this summer, and £9 to shuffle through the Tower of London or Buckingham Palace. A family soon racks up enormous sightseeing bills. Before long, we may find more of our visitors imitating our American couple — one doing the inside, the other waiting outside — not because they're in a hurry, but because they simply cannot afford to see our most famous sights.

SALES of luxury yachts in Britain have shot up by 233 per cent in the past year, *The Times* reported earlier this week. These are the monsters favoured by the late Robert Maxwell or Dodi Fayed; a world away from the modest variety that you or I might join for a Mediterranean sailing holiday.

In Majorca two years ago, I saw, berthed at the ritzy marina at Portals Nous, the vast grey hulk owned by Prince Jefri of Brunei, looming over the common-or-garden gin palaces berthed near by. I'd say it looks more like a warship than a luxury yacht. And its name? *Tits.* Which just goes to show that money can buy you luxury, but it can't buy you class.

I SPENT Easter in my home county of Derbyshire, which was sunny but freezing cold. As I drove through Chesterfield, I saw the sight that always reminds me of home: butch men wearing just T-shirts and jeans in freezing temperatures, their girlfriends wearing miniskirts and no tights. No wonder it has taken me years to learn how to pack properly for my holidays.

JUST in case you thought travel editors receive generous bribes from airlines and holiday companies, let me reveal the contents of this week's postbag. Rather than that return ticket to the Caribbean, my first brown envelope held a blue balloon from Airtours, emblazoned with the slogan "Let Yourself Go". Next, a Frisbee from car-hire company Avis to celebrate its new links with British Airways. Most bizarre of all, a grill for barbequeing fish from the French Tourist Office. If anyone can tell me why they need such an implement, it's theirs.

TRIP WIRES



by Cath Urquhart

TRAVEL EDITOR

WIN A GUIDEBOOK — SEND US YOUR TIPS

WHAT IS the best piece of travel advice you were ever given? Do you know the cheapest way to get around New York, or how to buy a train ticket in Bombay? Perhaps you have a clever strategy for packing or can offer advice on staying safe in a foreign country? We want you to share your tips, in 75 words or less, with readers of *The Times*. If we publish your tip, you will win the *Lonely Planet* guidebook and phrasebook of your choice. Here are five tips to start you thinking.

MAKE photocopies of your passport and travel insurance certificate and carry them separately from the originals. This helps if you need to replace your passport, and is crucial if you lose your insurance certificate and have an accident. If I hadn't taken a copy of my insurance, I could have faced a big hospital bill when I broke my arm in New York. — *Jean Gibson, Wolverhampton.*

WHEN visiting a place where there's a risk of muggings, carry a pocketful of low-value notes from other countries separate from your main cash. If confronted, hand over the notes, which will impress the mugger who is unlikely to recognise they aren't worth much. I did this in Morocco and also dropped the money to create a diversion and got away safely. — *David Hill, Cambridge.*

STAYING at guesthouses and cheap lodges in Malaysia and Thailand, you should keep your money hidden in a pillowcase or under a sheet. Lots of people we met who didn't were robbed, as it's easy for thieves to break in and reach under mosquito nets. Most thieves seem to be opportunists who only try their luck if they see a wallet or purse in the open. — *Katie Bell, Holborn, London.*

If you're on a fly-drive to a long-haul destination, it's worth booking a hotel near the airport in advance for the first night. The flight takes a lot out of you and driving too far is dangerous — I had a very near miss myself in Orlando last November. — *Christy Kitson, Stoke-on-Trent.*

Pack a sarong. And that includes the men. It is not just a skirt. It can also be used as a towel, night sheet, drying-up cloth, a cover for your legs when entering temples, a headscarf, a sheet, a wrap and shopping bag. — *Helen Walsh, Glasgow.*

● *Send your suggestion on a postcard to: Travellers' Tip, The Times Travel Desk, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN, with your address and day-time telephone number.*

☐ SHAPE UP for summer at the Hotel Vilalara in the Algarve, Portugal. Thermalia Travel Health and Beauty Holidays (0171-483 1898) is offering seven nights' full board accommodation and thalassotherapy treatment for £1,183 per person in April; £1,351 in May and June. Return flights depart daily from Heathrow; transfers are included but not airport taxes.

☐ BRITTANY Ferries (0990 360360) is offering a 24-hour fare of £9.95 on all routes to France until May 14 — Portsmouth-Caen or St Malo, Poole-Cherbourg and Plymouth-Roscoff. A car is £10 extra.

☐ Hayes and Jarvis (0181-222 7833) is offering up to £100 savings on holidays to Cuba until June 16. Six nights' B&B at the Kohly Hotel in Havana is now £349 per person and six nights' all inclusive at the Gran Hotel in the beach resort of Varadero is £469 per person. Both offers include return flights, UK departure tax and transfers, and depart from Gatwick on Tuesdays and Manchester on Wednesdays.



☐ WATCH OUT for witches on Walpurgis Night: Moswin (0116-271 9922) is offering a week in St Andreasberg, near the Harz Mountains, Germany, where witches allegedly take off on April 30 to banish the winter and welcome the spring. Seven nights' B&B at the Rehberg Hotel is £430 per person, including return flights and car hire, and departing from Heathrow on April 24.

☐ ONE CHILD travels to Florida for £50 when accompanied by two adults with British Airways Holidays (0990 224224). Seven nights' accommodation and car hire starts at £479 per adult, including UK taxes and return flights from Gatwick to Tampa. Valid until June 14.

☐ BE ONE of the first to stay at the stylish Malmaison hotel (0161-278 1000) which opened in Manchester this week. A double room starts at £99; a suite from £165.

☐ WORLDCHOICE (0990 000888) has seven nights' self-catering accommodation in Turkey, to be allocated on arrival, starting at £149 per person and departing from Manchester on April 21. Transfers and taxes included.

☐ OPERA specialist Liaisons Abroad (0171-376 4020) has tickets from £22 for the Accademia San Rocco, performing counter-tenor arias by Vivaldi and Handel in Venice on April 21, 25 and 28. Tickets to *Fidelio* by Beethoven, at the Palafenice on April 24, 26, 28 and 30 are from £18. B&B accommodation can also be arranged from £102 per room per night included.

JOANNA HUNTER

FLYING VISITS

Departures: Monday 20 April to Saturday 25 April, 1998
Lowest available published fares for return travel

Route	Promotional Fare	Flexible Fare
London – Amsterdam	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£199 Transavia (ex-Gatwick)
London – Berlin	£129 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	from £398 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)
London – Brussels	£66 Virgin Express (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	£200 Sabena (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Copenhagen	£125 Maersk Air (ex-Gatwick)	£390 Maersk Air (ex-Gatwick)
London – Edinburgh	from £58 KLM uk (ex-Stansted/City)	from £158 KLM uk (ex-Stansted/City)
London – Lisbon	£107 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	£398 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)
Manchester – Madrid	from £129 Iberia	£626 Iberia
London – Palma	from £118 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£530 BA (ex-Gatwick)
Birmingham – Paris	£113 BA	£331 BA
London – Shannon	£75 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	from £144 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)

Airline telephone numbers

AB Airlines 0800-458 8111 · Maersk Air 0171-333 0066
British Airways (BA) 0345 222111 · Sabena 0181-780 1444
easyJet 0990 292929 · Transavia 01293 596650
Iberia 0171-830 0011 · Virgin Express 0171-744 0004
KLM uk 0990 074074

Notes
Fares shown do not include taxes.
Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
Availability is not guaranteed.

Travel agents introduce booking fees

HOLIDAYMAKERS will have to pay a fee for booking some trips after two large travel agencies abandoned their traditional policy of giving a free advice and booking service, *Steve Keenan writes.*

Thomas Cook this week began charging high-street and direct-sell customers £10 for sales of under £150.

The move follows that of rival agency Carlson Worldchoice, which is charging £5 for bookings worth less than £75.

Other chains, including Lunn Poly, are studying the moves, claiming they are losing money on low-value sales.

Agents earn, on average, 10 per cent commission on sales.

Going Places already charges £5 for customers booking Ryanair flights, and managing director Peter Shanks did not rule out more charges.

"Only a year ago, a £29 airline fare would have been selling for £129. We can either decide not to work with that or ask the customer for a booking fee."

Thomas Cook is exempting only car hire bookings from its new charge. Said a spokesman: "You either end up selling a product at a loss, or sell it in a different way."

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Seaside pleasures at their simplest

Christopher Somerville and his family find there is more to the Essex resorts than candyfloss and cockles



NEWS UK

There are no pretensions about Clacton – it's a real, brash, charabanc resort. If you can't enjoy greasy chips from a paper bag, a whirl on the Big Wheel and a good scream, then Clacton is not for you

The Essex Sunshine Coast was not exactly living up to its self-awarded title this grey summer's day. Elizabeth, 12, and Mary, 7, had blue lips and goose pimples as we walked past Clacton's Gaiety Arcade ("Fun For All The Family") and Tubby Isaacs's Quality Seafood stall (jellied eels, whelks and cockles), looking for a good time.

A bit of a raucous knees-up is what Clacton-on-Sea is all about. Brassiest of the three sister towns of the northeast Essex coast — and nearest to London — it has developed, over the century of its day-tripper existence, into what Frinton would shudder to be and Walton-on-the-Naze has never quite become — a real, brash, charabanc resort.

There are no genteel pretensions about noisy, flashy Clacton, in spite of the mock-Dutch gables fronting the Victorian boarding houses along Marine Parade. Here the pier, the seaside revues, slot machine arcades and funfair rides still rule the roost, along with the Chippendales and Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen. If you can't enjoy greasy chips from a paper bag, a whirl on the Big Wheel and a good scream, this town is not for you.

Down on Clacton pier we did our best to ignore the cold North Sea wind and spatters of drizzle. The pier attendants smoked and yawned ferociously. The girls and I took a spin on the Big Wheel, lurching high above the water, queasy from honeycomb and peanut brittle. In the Hall of Laughter the distorting mirrors raised a wan smile or two.

Gypsy Rosalee (palmist, clairvoyant, tarot cards, crystal ball) was out to lunch. We pressed our palms to the display panel of the Lucky Lady mechanical fortune-teller. "Your lucky colour very strong orange," the printout told Elizabeth. "May have some good news." The Sex Meter provided interesting assessments of my wife Jane ("Bashful") and me ("Poser").

Up on Marine Parade, the well-drilled floral gardens made a much-needed splash of colour. A red-sailed oyster smack dipped gracefully beyond the pier, heading north. So were we, not unwillingly. "Not hasta la vista but basta la vista," said Jane, and that neatly summed it up for rainy old Clacton. The smooth yellow sands of Frinton-on-Sea lie only four miles from Clacton pier, but there is a great gulf between these two neighbouring resorts. Frinton is so downbeat that it doesn't even have a tourist information centre — let alone a pier, penny arcades, ice cream parlours or the like.

Along the High Street, elderly shoppers moved briskly: the shops were about to close for lunch. In Anne's Restaurant we were ignored for ten minutes, then smilingly served by a waitress in a frilly apron. "So sorry," she dimpled, "our steak and kidney pie has turned into a pudding." And a good one, too.

What Frinton offers is a safe, clean seafront — a stretch of wide greensward above low bushy cliffs, a discreet line of beach huts, and a wonderful sweep of pale yellow sand between wooden groynes.

On the benches Frinton's retired townsfolk gazed seawards in after-lunch contemplation, their backs resting against dedication labels in memory of Frinton-lovers such as Len Cherry ("Died on the greensward after a day's fishing") and Emma Faultless ("Our dear mother, died 8th January 1973 aged 100 years").

Walton-on-the-Naze, Frinton's Siamese twin resort, has all the day-tripper flim-flam on which Frinton has turned its back — a funfair pier, a rash of fast-food joints and coachloads of holidaymakers out to spend their money fast.

But Walton is no Clacton. There's the feel of a long-established resort here; a small-scale charm about the Georgian crescents and hotels on the cliffs, the narrow streets with their curiosity shops, the open-air market. The pier dates back to 1830; use of the place as a spa goes back at least another 100 years.

The morning we came to Walton it was bright and warm. We larked around on the pier and then went on the ghost train — skeletons, ghosts, tunnels, all negotiated at neck-wrenching velocity in a rattling old car. "Really scary!" was Mary's verdict.

She and her sister braved the Blizzard roller coaster while Jane and I watched cravenly from the sidelines. Then in the afternoon we went walking on the Naze, a headland of crumbling 70ft clay and sandstone cliffs that stretches north of the town. The beaches of the Naze are littered with fossils newly washed out of the cliffs — shells, bones and the hard-to-find shark's teeth that children covet. Ours fished out four of the little shiny black T-shapes from the carpet of shells — buried treasure, unearthed by those still tuned to simple seaside pleasures.

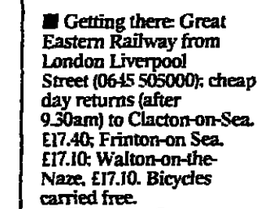
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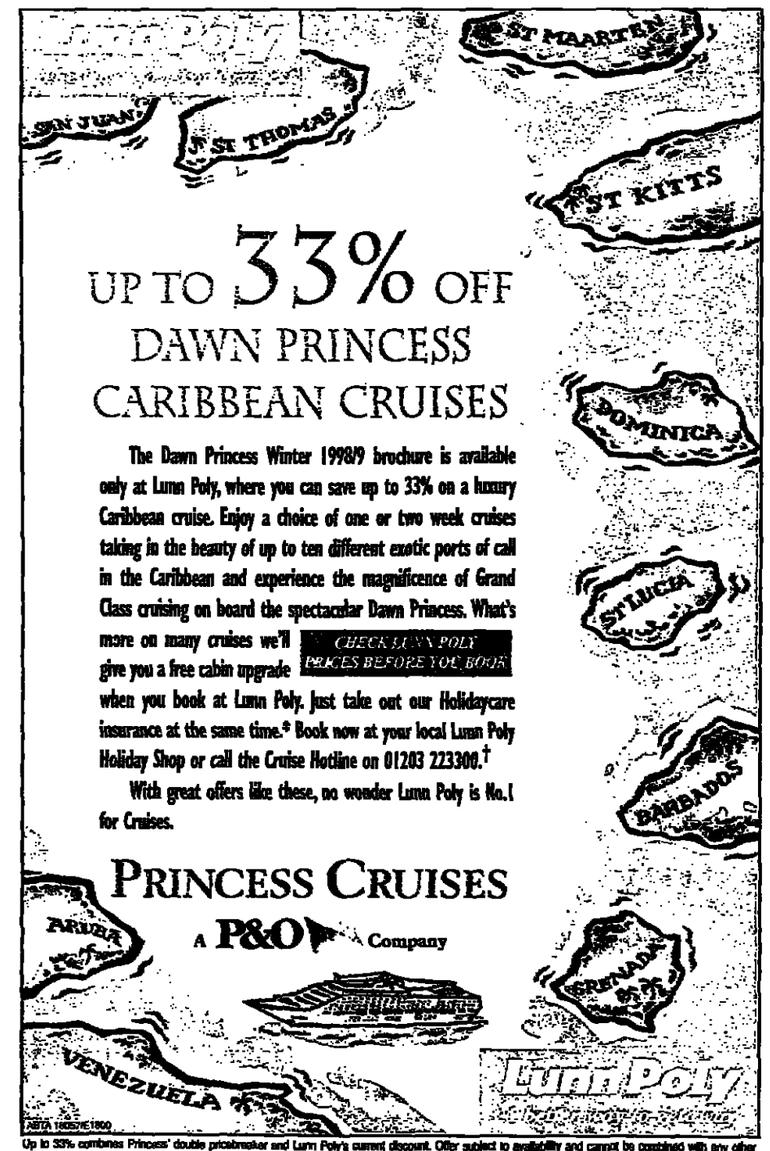
■ Getting there: Great Eastern Railway from London Liverpool Street (0645 505000); cheap day returns (after 9.30am) to Clacton-on-Sea, £17.40; Frinton-on Sea, £17.10; Walton-on-the-Naze, £17.10. Bicycles carried free.

■ Clacton-on-Sea: A120/A133 from A12 at Colchester. Frinton-on-Sea: B1033 from A133 at Weeley. Walton-on-the-Naze: B1034 from B1033 at Thorpe Cross.

■ Map: Landranger 169 *Ipswich & The Naze* (Ordnance Survey, £4.95).

■ Tourist information: Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea (from mid-May): 23 Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, (01255 423400), Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm; Friday-Sunday 9am-4.30pm. Walton-on-the-Naze (from mid-May): Princes Esplanade (01255 675542), Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm.





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Looking for a great day out in London? Clock this

A scheme to offer formal tours of Parliament to tourists was mooted this week, but few visitors know that it has long been possible to climb Big Ben, *Mike Gerrard writes.*

"This is the most powerful and accurate public clock in the world," claims Brian Davis, the clock guide at the Houses of Parliament. He should know, having made almost 6,000 trips to the top. This represents 39 ascents of Everest and merits an entry in *The Guinness Book of Records.*

He greets us at the foot of the clock tower, where 334 steps separate us from the belfry. It is 11.30am and we aim to be there when Big Ben strikes noon. An Italian woman has brought earplugs. "You won't need those," Brian reassures her. "It's a bit loud but not uncomfortable."

We haul ourselves up the first calf-aching 114 steps and through a doorway into a little museum. "This is the clock tower prison room," Brian says. "The room was used years ago as a cell for the House of Commons. The last person imprisoned here was the suffragette, Emmeline Pankhurst, confined for 24 hours after chaining herself to the railings."

We tackle the steps in easy stages and reach the belfry five minutes before midday. As everyone delights in pointing out, Big Ben is the name of the bell and not the clock. But how many people know that Big Ben was a Welshman? Sir Benjamin Hall was the bell-shaped Chief Commissioner of Works when the seven-and-a-half-feet-high Big Ben was installed in the 1850s.

"All the black panelling you can see at the top of the tower is steel plate," Brian tells us as we puff our way up. "It helps support everything. The main bell weighs 13 tonnes and the four quarter bells weigh about eight tonnes between them."

Despite the lack of puff, Brian still has time for two important pieces of advice when we reach the belfry: "The noon strike is broadcast live on the BBC World Service, so no shouting out, 'Hello mother'." A workman once fell over his toolbag when the bell sounded and listeners around the globe heard a very distinct four-letter word. His company nearly lost the contract.

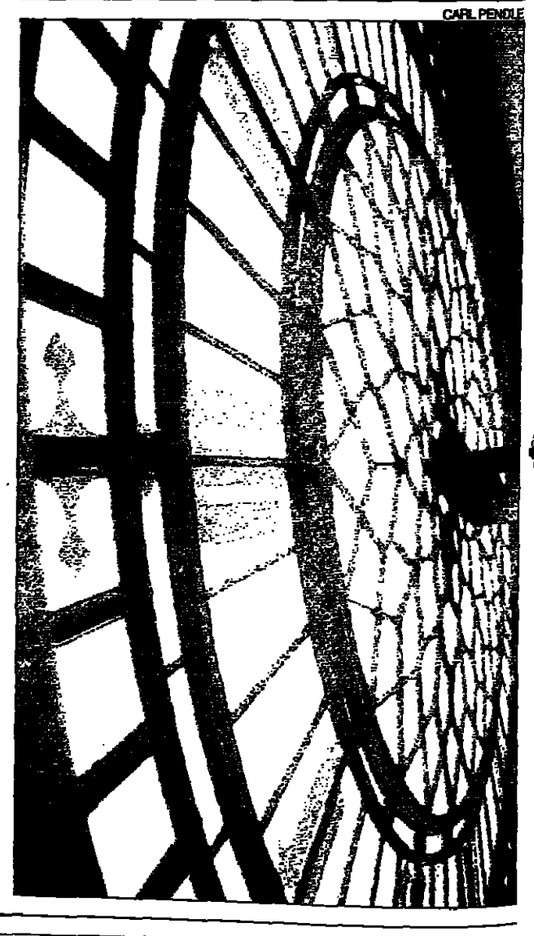
When Big Ben boomed I did not put my fingers in my ears because I wanted to experience the full might of the noise. Imagine a clap of thunder breaking directly over your head, and then repeated 11 times. I could feel it in my teeth.

Above the clock face is the mechanism, controlled not by technology but by a pile of old coins. "If you move one penny," Brian explains, "it can alter the timing of the clock by 0.4 seconds over 24 hours. Amazing to think it was designed by a man who only designed clocks as a hobby."

And with that Brian leads us down again, with the air of a man who leads tours because he likes it and not because it is his job. He locks the door to the stairway, shows us the exit, and walks away singing *Oh, Happy Day* to himself.

● *To arrange a visit to Big Ben, write to your Member of Parliament at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 2PW. Tours are free, but numbers are limited.*

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When holidays are not as simple as ABC



JOHN ROGERS

The headline says it all for stranded passengers at an airport. But who rescues and reimburses the holidaymaker or traveller in times of crisis?

Do you know your ATOL from your ABTA? And will they help if a holiday goes wrong? Andrew Eames reports

Booking a holiday sometimes seems like swimming through an alphabet soup of puzzling initials.

Your travel agent will probably be a member of ABTA; your tour operator will probably hold an ATOL. And you will definitely become a PNR (passenger name record).

While the telecommunications industry has Oftel and water has Ofwat, travel has no Ofhol. Instead it is self-governing, and various industry groups set standards, lobby on behalf of their members, and provide a contact point for customers with complaints.

As we prepare for our summer holidays, it is worth understanding the difference between ABTA, ATOL and ABTOT — and how these associations can help us.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

THE underwriting of the holiday business is not easy to understand — although the need is clear. For example, last year alone some 136,500 holidaymakers were either compensated or repatriated under the ATOL scheme *(see right)*.

When you buy a holiday, you often deposit substantial sums of money with people you never meet. To safeguard your cash, the holiday operator is obliged by the EC's 1992 Package Travel Directive to have one of three things: a bond with an approved bondholder; approved insurance, or a trust account.

The eight bond schemes approved by the Department of Trade & Industry are known by the initials ABTA, ATOL, ABTOT, FTO, AITOT, BCH, PSA and YCA. Essentially, the Civil Aviation Authority, which issues ATOLs, takes responsibility for sorting out the mess left by the collapse of a package holiday operator, and the respective trade associations pick up the rest of the pieces.

ATOL

THE Air Travel Organiser's Licence, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, is the most significant of the industry bond schemes.

In the previous financial year, this scheme enabled 11,500 people to complete their holidays when their tour operators became insolvent, and another 125,000 received refunds.

An ATOL is required by law for any company selling flights, on their own or as part of a package holiday. An ATOL is not needed by an airline selling its own flights, or by an agent who hands a ticket over when payment is made.

If booking over the phone, the agent must dispatch a ticket "as soon as is practicable" or at the latest, by the next working day. Customers should record the ATOL number on booking.

If the agent goes bust during this process, the company holding the ATOL has a legal responsibility to carry the customer. If the ATOL-holder goes bust, the CAA will use its bond to repay the customer.

If the agent can't quote an ATOL number, or doesn't guarantee to send tickets by the following day, the CAA advises customers not to book. Call 0171-832 5620 to check a company's ATOL status.

ABTA

THE Association of British Travel Agents. The most public face of the travel trade was formed in 1950, and is particularly concerned with keeping the industry's house in order.

Currently, 80 per cent of ABTA tour operator members have some kind of bond with the organisation, which now has £8 million in reserves for bailing out failures.

ABTA also investigates holiday complaints. It received 17,000 last year, of which 10 per cent could not be resolved with the holiday company involved and had to be referred to the Institute of Arbitrators (IoA).

The IoA operates a written procedure on behalf of ABTA, offering a legally binding alternative to the Small Claims Court. In 80 per cent of cases, it finds in favour of the customer.

To check if a company has ABTA membership telephone: 0891 202520 (50p per minute). For complaints about members, call 0171-637 2444.

TTA

THE Travel Trust Association was formed as an alternative to ABTA in 1993, and offers non-ABTA travel agents a system of trust accounts as a more economic means of complying with the legislation on protection of client money. Telephone: 0181-876 4458.

ABTOT

THE Association of Bonded Travel Organisers' Trust also enables travel companies to comply with the DTI's regulations concerning the safety of customers' money. Its 60-strong membership is composed largely of family-owned travel organisers. Most are small and generally offering surface travel by car (non ATOL-covered travel). Members include French Affair and Ferris Holidays. Telephone: 0171-930 2388.

AITO/AITOT

THE Association of Independent Tour Operators has a 150-strong membership drawn from smaller specialist operators, including Explore, Inntravel, Simply Travel, VFB Holidays and Cox & Kings. Telephone: 0181-744 9280. The AITO Trust, AITOT, offers financial protection — call 0171-930 7714.

PSA

THE Passenger Shipping Association bonds operators of ferries and cruises. The bond is high — a minimum of 25 per cent of annual turnover — but there have been no failures since the scheme started in 1992.

Telephone: 0171-436 2449.

BCH

THE Bonded Coach Holiday logo indicates that the company is an operator of coaches and coach holidays, and a member of the parent trade association, the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT). The BCH has only had one failure since it was formed in 1982. Telephone: 0171-240 3131.

YCA

THE Yacht Charter Association represents British-based yacht charter owners, and is a bond-holder for most members' holidays, offering a mediation service in disputes. Telephone: 01703 338400. Some operators of yacht holidays abroad may not be bonded, so check with the ABSC (Association of Bonded Sailing Companies). Call Sunsail (01705 222300) for details.

FTO

THE Federation of Tour Operators was launched in its present form in 1994 for the big guns in the business. The combined sales of its 18 members (including Airtours, Thomson, and First Choice) account for 90 per cent of the overseas package market.

The FTO's main interest is in negotiating with overseas agencies to improve the whole holiday experience. The FTO also operates a bond system. Telephone: 01273 477722.

Holidays cut short by an OGB

An acronym common in the travel industry is OGB — Operator Gone Bust, *Steve Keenan writes*.

It usually happens on a Friday, when the weekend flight bills are due, and at the end of summer, when cashflow dries up but creditors still have to be paid.

That was the case on Sunday, October 5 last year, when Suntours ran out of money. The company specialised in holidays to Turkey, with a few to Tunisia and the Greek islands. It was the largest failure for 16 months. The company had 6,939 customers abroad who completed their holidays, but a further 20,187 who had booked found their plans in ruins.

The first thing the CAA does in a failure is to stop anybody else flying out. Being a Sunday, it was impossible to contact travel agents so the CAA rang airports and airlines to warn them. It also had to organise flights for 1,085 passengers due to return to Britain on the Monday. Two charter airlines were used and the stranded holidaymakers all arrived home within 12 hours of their scheduled return. One plane-load of 123 even reached Gatwick 15 minutes earlier than planned.

Hotels often contract themselves to one tour operator for the entire summer. Having expected a large cheque, some of Suntours's hotels reacted badly and demanded that holidaymakers pay for their rooms or risk being thrown on to the street.

Staff at the Hotel Sato in the Turkish resort of Side refused to hand over baggage until British families paid £11 for every night they stayed. With proof of payment, they were later able to reclaim the money from the CAA. Having solved the immediate problem, the other 5,854 passengers who were still to complete their breaks also had to be informed of the failure. Other flights were organised over the following 11 days to bring them home. Then there were the 20,187 still expecting to travel, each of whom had to be refunded.

Passengers and suppliers have a year in which to claim. By last month, about 13,700 had claimed their money back. It will be October before the full extent of the Suntours failure is known but the CAA held a £4.6 million bond on behalf of the company, which looks adequate.

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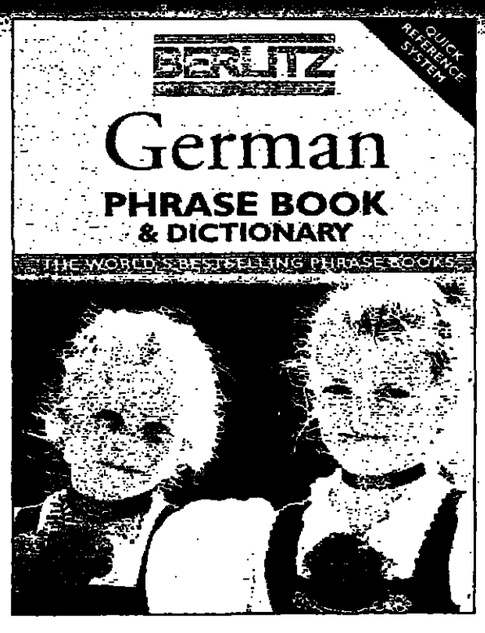
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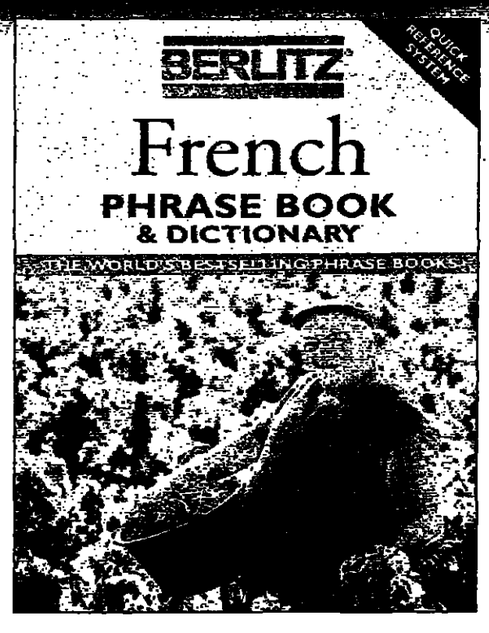
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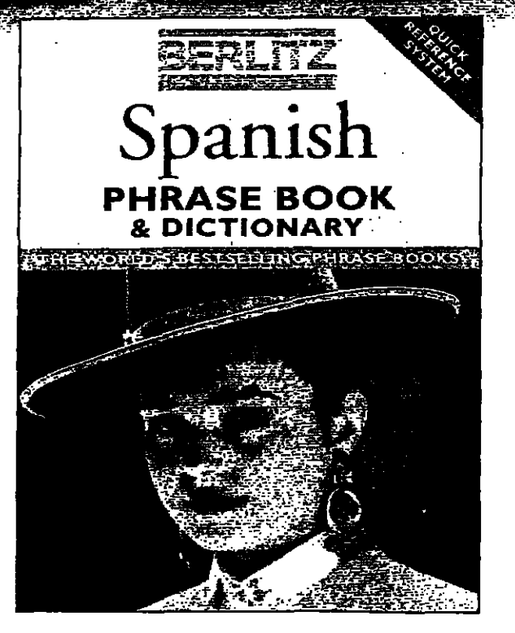
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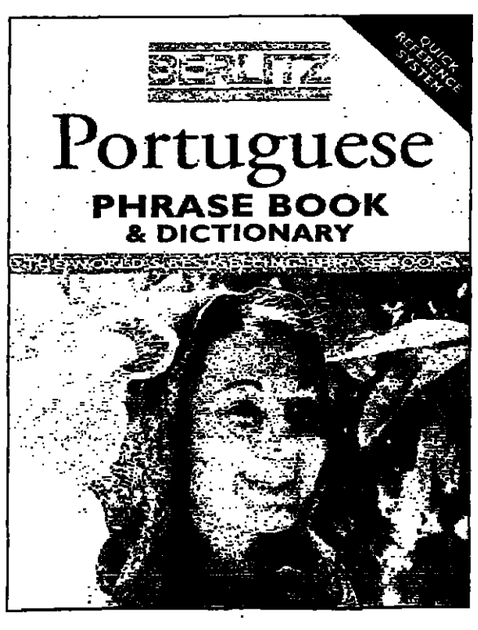
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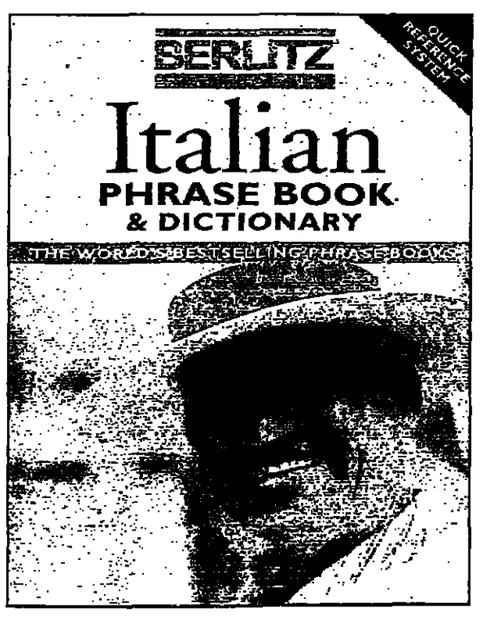
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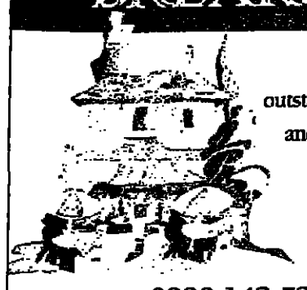
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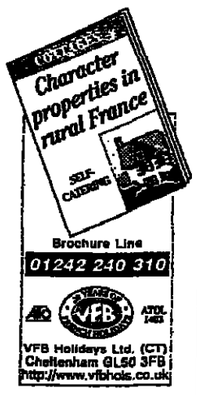
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AMAZING offer: Attractive, warm, sexy, stylish, strawberry blonde, late 40's, seeks tall, fit, successful, adventurous man for fun, love, laughter & just maybe the future. He's 45-60, London & Surrey. Photo appr. Please Reply to Box No 1881

AMERICAN lovely lady in USA, 40ish, English lineage, seeks intellectual/ academic/ scholarly gentleman. Quiet village/ University lifestyle, for marriage in England. Box No 1567

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ATTRACTIVE, slim Oriental lady graduate, GSOH, enjoys dining & travelling, seeks caring, n/s prof/business man 40+ for serious relationship. London/South East. Box No 1818

ATTRACTIVE, slim Oriental lady graduate, GSOH, seeks caring, n/s prof/business man 40+ for serious relationship. London/ South East Bx 1818

BEAUTIFUL widow, seeks fun loving, tall handsome intelligent successful man, for country weekends and romantic dinners. London/Home Counties Reply to Box 1821

COME fly with me! Single, sizzling blonde, smart, fun loving, fit female, early 40s with everything in life except a very special cultured gentleman to share her interests or at least one! of flying (own licence) horse racing, skiing, boats (no sailor), days out in the country, evenings in good restaurants and champagne. You are probably 40-50, single, a professional or running your own company, outgoing, stylish, assertive, generous with GSOH & a love of life Plse reply with photo if possible London/ Home Counties Bx 1944

COVENT Op English South Coast. Curvaceous strawberry blonde captive, needs 'Highlander type' modern adventurer/rough diamond/suited professional, 35-55 to plan and successfully execute a daring rescue mission as soon as possible. Objective: set up base camp together. Please reply with photo to Box No 1673

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GORGEOUS, bright, classy, blonde, London based journalist, 29, seeks unattached tall, dark, handsome Heathcliffe, 25-40, who's as at home on tropical beaches as on wind swept moors. Please write with photo, which will be returned Box no 1921

HEARTSTOPPING American, v. attractive, petite, dark hair/eyes, intelligent, well-educated (Woodsman), romantic, WORDS, NOT many moments, WLTM wonderful, tall, attractive, sophisticated, successful gentleman, 35+, with passion/ROH to, with whom he has not forgotten how to flirt. Letter & photo. London/ H. Counties/ South. Box 1167

I am said 30's, exuberant, tallish, generously proportioned & reputedly fun! I doesn't seem you get in touch. Reply to Box No 1923

OPTIMISTIC attractive slim blonde late 40's into cinema, politics, music, keen tennis (v!) seeks compatible adventurous fella. Box no 1766

PROFESSIONAL, slim, brunette, enjoys food, theatre, travel, GSOH, seeks intelligent, successful, kind male 48-55 of wit & style Sussex Bx 1765

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MILLIONAIRE businessman, very sporty 40, seeks stunningly attractive lady, 25-35, leggy and honest for me to spoil and love for lasting relationship & possibly marriage. Photo essential to box number 6361

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EARLY 40s, handsome generous single guy, well toned physically and culturally seeking stylish and sensual lady for London/Cardiff/ dinners preferable, breakfast optional (reservations for Tiffanys considered). Midlands/North West Box no 1964

KNIGHT in tarnished armour seeking damsel (but not in distress!) white charger unavailable due to London castle. Tall, amazing, considerate, attractive, privately educated, cuddable 'young' 1953 vintage, with good financial security; do you have similar qualities (but less ancient) and are articulate, gregarious, slim, and have charm and Derrière? Interests include sailing, tennis, country pursuits, bridge, theatre and opera. If this is aimed at you, it could be treasure - so ignore your natural inhibitions, and pluck up courage to send messenger with portrait, which will be returned without delay. Box 6301

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ATTRACTIVE, 6', prof man, 30's, fit, kind, easy going, Indian. Enjoys laughing, alternative therapy, theatre, travel, yoga. Seeks warm female, any nationality. London/ SE. Box No 1982

CARING professional male, 39, 6' tall, slim, good physique, good-looking, ambitious, loves to pamper a lady's feet, seeks loving relationship with very dominant, bossy, demanding, intelligent, slim, very attractive, 30-50 year old woman with lovely legs and beautiful feet. Do you want to be loved, adored, worshipped by a romantic man who will devote himself to your every whim and wait on you hand and foot? Have your feet massaged and caressed at the mere snap of your fingers. If you want to be treated like a Goddess every day of your life then we could be made for each other. Written reply preferred. Photo appreciated. North West/ Cheshire considered. Box No 1971

EARLY 40s, handsome generous single guy, well toned physically and culturally seeking stylish and sensual lady for London/Cardiff/ dinners preferable, breakfast optional (reservations for Tiffanys considered). Midlands/North West Box no 1964

FIT, tall, soft-centred 61 year old. I love the adventure that is life, writing poetry, Tai Chi, walking, travel, the real Spain. Speak Spanish and English fluently. SE based & mobile. WLTM compatible NS woman. Letters only please. Bx 1953

6000 fun, fit, stylish & sporty entrepreneur (40 something) seeks very attractive, slim, stylish, curvy, sexy, adventurous lady for great times, laughter, wining/ dining, travel & possible relationship. A recent photo appreciated. Box No 1931

HANDSOME, 6' slim, interesting, gentle and romantic man. Very young looking 65, seeks pretty, shapely and caring lady with sparkle for friendship/ romance. Photo and letter please. London area.Bx 1996

HANDSOME (so I'm told), 30's, 5'10", blond, blue eyes, sporty, prof, good, happy disposition, seeks beautiful, slim lady for friendship initially. Photo appreciated. Mids. Box No 2013

LAWYER, North East/ N. Yorks, attractive, GSOH, mid 40's, divorced, no ties, 5'8", wants to set out to enjoy life & fall in love with slim, attractive, tactile lady, nothing lost in dropping me a line. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 1948

LUCY, the gorgeous Au Pair from the Czech Republic living in South London who came to Jersey and captured my heart. I cannot forget you. Please contact me. Dave. Box No 1940

MAN, green eyes, dark hair, 5'9", Sagittarius, turning 40, happy, caring, slim, London based, n/s, professional, graduate, hard working & successful in career without being obsessive, aspiring towards truth, trust & beauty. Seeks like-minded woman for love & a serious long-term relationship. Interests include cinema, theatre, books, journeys, countryside, walking, travel. Most important is a positive, easy-going attitude towards life, the universe & everything. I am probably the sort of man your mother would approve of! Long letter & a photo much appreciated. No voice mail. Box No 1481

MIDLANDS based Company Director, works hard & has made his fortune, but he hasn't got anybody to play with or playtime. He is in his 40's, fit, fashionable, funny, flexible, flamboyant & fearless. He is looking for a girl who is 30, something, thin, tempting, thrilling, tasteful, terrific, trendy, trim & therapeutic for cyours 2 the World. Please, please. Box No 1894

PROFESSIONAL male, 44, seeks s/s female kindred spirit to share cinema, theatre, meals, restaurants, country walks & pubs, enchanting days out & foreign travel. Newcastle. Please Reply to Box No 1945

SENSITIVE, attractive man, into serious keep fit, outdoor pursuits, jazz, travel. No time. Aged. Photo please. Box No 1519

SINGLE, successful Managing Director, young 45, good looking, 6'3 tall, fit, n/s, seeks caring and down to earth personality. Loves the outdoor life in between, dogs and motor sport and also enjoys more adventurous holidays, living in rural Knutsford area of North West WLTM tall, 5'8+ 24-35, intelligent, relaxed, vegetarian lady to share the above with much more. Plse reply by letter and recent photo, all will be answered Box 1904

STRONG MINDED professional, 53, 5'9", well-built fit, enjoys sport, cinema, theatre, eating out, the outdoors, WLTM slim, intelligent lady, 35-45, for social functions & fun, maybe times together. N. Mids. Letter & photo please. Box No 1834

TALL, slim M 48. No ties. Rich in integrity, intelligence, humour and fun. Seeking slim, loyal, N/S soulmate to share life's adventures. I have wide interests + leisure, travel, and finding out about lifestyling. I am looking for a lady who is happy in jeans or ball gown (happy to have both!) - and good to be with. Photo appreciated. Hampshire. Please reply to Box No 1942

WEALTHY gents, homes in France, seek stunning ladies for occasional trip/ companionship. Send photo and details to Box No 1832

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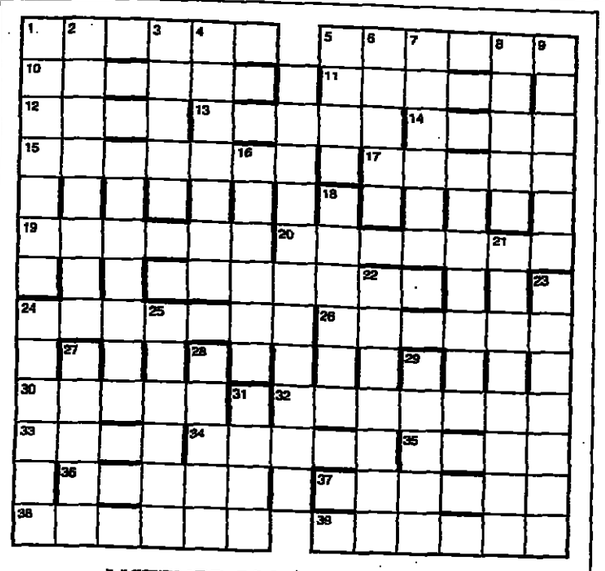
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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3458: Bugs by Arcturus



ALL BUT six answers must have a letter removed, wherever it occurs, to form the grid entry; these letters comprise part of a quotation which explains the state of affairs. The remaining answers undergo a different transformation to suit their location; solvers should fill in the four unclued grid entries to complete the picture.

ACROSS

1 Win over a hundred in race (7)
5 Arctic hunter currently stuck in the middle of Bristol Bay (8, two words)
10 Derelict kiln houses cut off (7)
11 Organs from the Latin club — they could accompany a samba (6)
12 Runner smuggled in speech (6)
13 Journey over and make landfall? (6, two words)
14 What Glasgow does is provide a grant (5)
15 Provided support as did tee when waggling (8)
17 Shop early for Christmas? Target's stocking starts to bulk up (6)
19 Ramshackle abode I'm continually reshaping in the US (7)
20 Cheater hiding what could be marked between deuce and queen (8)
24 Nuisance one encountered in marine ferns (8)
26 Hospital patients seen to fill pipe are given retribution (8)
30 Arabic people, some from an island (6)
32 Tube fare? (8, two words)
33 Double helpings of cabbage unfinished in feast (6)
34 Has lady going west put to sea? (6)
35 The elephant swings this to put back ball of wood (5)
36 Spinner, perhaps, with a short line in a shady spot (6)
37 Jellyfish making you leap madly in pain (8)
38 Jocks find birds after their source of salmon (7)
39 Basses be animato — such big noises are in order (8)

DOWN

1 Owl's nonsensical companion stays up flying with cold (8)
2 Second mowing is essential to flatter M Atherton (10)
3 Puddings such as Bach produced for the audience (6)
4 Strong raincoats save one in a storm (8)
5 Pole joins another running around pitch (5)
6 Paired dotty and diamond-patterned textile (6)
7 The works or part of them? (8)
8 Musos crazy with love of heavy metal (6)
9 One acting in another's place advanced to entry in play (8)
16 Plant growing from within leftover type of melon (7)
18 Having disconnected lines, run wide on the wing (7)
21 Dodgy peer and mole keeping quiet — there's something fishy about them (9)
22 Cargoes perhaps requiring half case each (8, two words)
23 Stirring as hunter gets ferrets out (8)
24 Twice I tucked into chop — light brown (7)
25 Gypsy lady crystal-gazing — a racegoer swallows it (7)
27 Letter about servant caught eavesdropping caused ruin (6)
28 Antelope made of brass — an antique to endure (7)
29 "Bugs" — an anagram reveals the contents (6)
31 Easy PE works for those getting fat (6)

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C	R	E	A	T	O	R	S	A	S	L	O	T	A
S	O	Y	R	O	B	E	A	R	S	F	O	O	T
T	I	S	A	N	E	A	N	S	A	A	M	E	E
A	T	A	P	P	D	R	O	P	O	C	K	E	R
T	U	C	S	O	N	D	D	I	E	T	A	R	Y
U	O	E	D	R	U	I	D	N	B	A	R	R	A
A	R	N	U	T	N	R	E	T	R	O	O	S	D
M	E	S	A	R	C	H	D	M	A	S	O	R	A
U	S	E	R	S	O	A	K	Y	N	N	E	E	P
O	V	A	R	E	C	M	N	N	A	I	A	N	T
N	O	V	O	D	A	M	U	S	D	V	F	S	S
I	L	E	W	D	I	T	R	A	D	E	F	U	L
C	A	S	S	A	N	D	R	A	S	L	Y	E	R

Solution and Notes for No 2355
***One-Time Pad* by Dimitry**

The "temporal (= temporary) instructions" of the preamble appeared in the perimeter of the grid as initially solved, reading anti-clockwise from the top right-hand square, SEND TRANSFORMED TO NORMAL ACROSS AND DOWN: ONE ACROSS IS EDUCE. This leads to the solution for entry in which the message is concealed and every clued word but CODE appears, which is therefore to be written beneath the grid. The clue mentioned in the preamble to help solvers was 10 (i.e. marked by X (ten)) which advised using a pencil. Bars were not required to be entered.

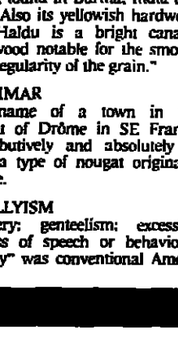
The winner is: M.A.L. Willey, Witney, Oxon. The runners-up are: E.C. Hunt, Norwich; Max Taylor, Chesterfield, Derbyshire; J.C. Harding, Portishead, Bristol; M.A. Trollope, Worthing, West Sussex; G. Mullineux, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

A FREQUENT defensive dilemma is whether to persist with the suit partner has led, or whether to shift to another one. This example is from a qualifying round of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge.

Dealer East — Love all — Pairs

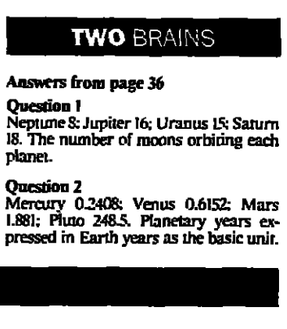


W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 *D*	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass Contract: 3NT by South.
Lead: the jack of clubs

Tony Priday, player in and later captain of many successful British teams, was South, partnering his wife, Vivienne. I think she was right to raise INT to 2NT — although that normally shows 17 points, she had the type of hand where declarer might easily be able to run nine tricks.

Priday won the club lead with the queen and ducked the ten of diamonds to East's queen. East returned the eight of clubs, which held the trick (dummy discarding a spade). Now what should East do? The complete deal is at the top of the next column.



In practice East played another club; Priday took the ace and ran the nine of diamonds to the king, eventually making ten tricks when the hearts were 3-3. But East should have switched to a spade, and the queen is the best card. East can see that declarer cannot take nine tricks without letting him in again. If declarer has three tricks in spades and four in hearts he would not be playing on diamonds if the clubs were wide open. When East takes his second diamond trick he can still decide whether to play West for AJ10xx of clubs, or for KJ10xx of clubs and good spades.

West will play the ten of spades on the queen. That clearly indicates to East that he should continue spades when he gets in. But West can paint the picture more vividly. Declarer will probably win the first spade with the ace, come to hand with the queen of hearts and play the nine of diamonds. On this West should discard the king of clubs: even the most obtuse East will not play a club after that.

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 36

HALDU
(b) A tree, *Adina cordifolia*, of the family Rubiaceae, found in Burma, India and Thailand. Also its yellowish hardwood timber. "Haldu is a bright canary-coloured wood notable for the smooth and even regularity of the grain."

MONTELIMAR
(a) The name of a town in the department of Drôme in SE France, used attributively and absolutely to designate a type of nougat originally made there.

NICE-NELLYISM
(b) Prudery; genteelism; excessive prudishness of speech or behaviour. "Nice Nelly" was conventional American slang for a respectable woman. "'Experience', as absurd a nice-nellyism for copulation as she could conceive."

HAPAX LEGOMENON
(b) A word or form of which only one instance is recorded in a literature or an author. Also simply *hapax*. The Greek for "(thing) once said".

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 36

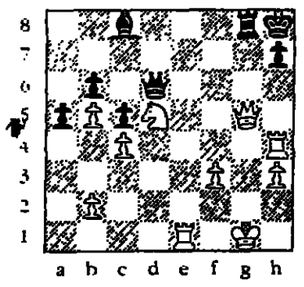
Question 1
Neptune 8; Jupiter 16; Uranus 15; Saturn 18. The number of moons orbiting each planet.

Question 2
Mercury 0.2408; Venus 0.6152; Mars 1.881; Pluto 248.5. Planetary years expressed in Earth years as the basic unit.

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

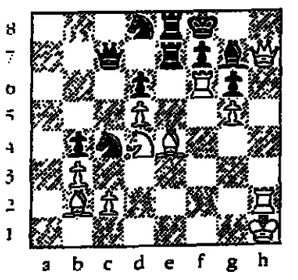
THIS week I look at some of the questions I have received recently from *Times* readers. The first concerns the game Hertneck v Hackbarth, Austria 1997, published as a Winning Move on March 9. Although White (to play) is a rook ahead, the pin of his queen against his king seems certain to regain Black some of his lost material.



The solution as given was: 1 Re8! Rxe8 2 Rxh7+ Kxh7 3 Nf6+ forcing a decisive material advantage, as if 3 . . . Kh8 4 Qh6 checkmate.

Christopher Pierce of Ipswich suggests White could try 1 Qxg8+ Kxg8 2 Re8+ Kf7 3 Rxc8 with the advantage of two rooks and a knight against a queen. This would be a decisive material plus but Black can counter with 3 . . . Qg3+, picking up the white rook on h4.

THE next question concerns the Winning Move of March 6. White to play. This position is from the game Fontaine v Clemens, Groningen 1997. Although White won this game quickly, he missed the chance for a beautiful combination which would have checkmated Black in six moves.



Solution: 1 Qxg7+! Kxg7 2 Rxg6+! fxg6 3 Nf5+ Kf7 4 Rh7+ Kg8 5 Rh8+ Kf7 6 Nh6 checkmate.

Geoff White from Leicestershire has tried for a quicker solution with 1 Nb5 Q anywhere 2 Qh8+ Bxh8 3 Rxh8+ Kg7 4 Rxg6 mate.

If Black were sufficiently obliging to move the queen, then this would work. However, Black could play 1 . . . Rxe4 2 Nxc7 Re1+ 3 Kg2 R8e2+ 4 Rf2 Nxb2 when Black has two minor pieces against White's queen. Of course, White should win from this position, but it is better to force an immediate checkmate.

THE third item concerns chess etiquette and rules. Jeremy Bower of Dorset has suffered minor infringements in "friendly" games, not subject to normal tournament regulations. On several occasions opponents facing Mr Bower, while in check, have touched a piece which, if moved, would be unable to parry the check in any way. Normally, and this is a good discipline, if you touch a piece in chess you have to move it (the touch move rule). Mr Bower would like to know what penalty can be exacted if a piece is touched.

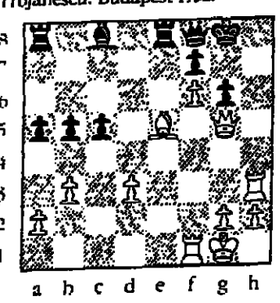
In fact, any move by that piece would turn out to be illegal. In a tournament game one could call the arbiter to adjudicate in the case of a persistent offender. The arbiter has the right to impose penalties from giving extra time on the tournament clock to the offended party, to compensate for the disturbance caused, to awarding a default if the particular offence is perniciously repeated.

In a friendly game, though, there is no real sanction, apart from declining to play against people who repeatedly fail to notice they are in check. The only other remedy I can suggest is that when giving check one should clearly say "check" and perhaps indicate the checking piece. Although one does not announce check in tournament games, in friendly games it is quite permissible; in earlier times it was common to say "Gardez" when attacking the opponent's queen. This was a sign of politeness indicating that one did not wish to win the game simply because the opponent had overlooked a threat to his or her strongest piece.

WINNING MOVES

by Raymond Keene

WHITE to play. This position is from the game Gereben — Trojanescu, Budapest 1952.



How did White power his way into the black kingside to force a quick checkmate?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers on a postcard please addressed to Winning Move competition, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Rg5+ (1 . . . Kxg5 is a draw by stalemate and otherwise White captures the g-pawn and draws comfortably).
The winner is: Tom Nicholls of Blackpool

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

MILLENNIUM Meltdown! The end of civilisation as we know it? Hopefully not. Those of you who have asked how the dreaded millennium bug will affect your home computing should be able to rest easy. This problem is largely a bugbear of business.

The problem is simple. Early programmers opted to save computer memory by shortening year endings to two numbers. So 1998 would be saved as 98. It never dawned on the eggheads that their programmes would still be with us now and that 2000, saved as 00, might be recognised as 1900. Business computers may cough and splutter but at home we should not encounter problems with our desktops en masse.

There are a few steps you can take to check your system. The most obvious is to set your computer clock to December 31, 1999, sit back and see what happens. If your PC encounters problems, call your supplier — if products are less than six years old and if the problem cannot be fixed, you can claim compensation. If you are about to buy a new computer, check that it is "Year 2000 compliant".

There are also programmes you can purchase that scan for millennium-date problems, like Date-A-Fix for Windows 95, which comes on a floppy disc and costs £19.99. Loaded through MS-DOS mode, the programme runs five date-sensitive tests. To find out more about Data-A-Fix head for the company's Web site (*http://www.date-a-fix.com*).



Find out if the millennium bug is going to affect your computer

Apart from the computer there are other electrical appliances that may not cope, such as videos and toasters. If your video fails a 1999-2000 rollover test then, when we get to 2000, you can reset the clock to 1972. It will replicate the correct calender pattern to allow you to continue making timed recordings. If the toaster fails, eat cake.

CYBERSPACE Forty-Two serves up £5,000 worth of prizes with Lara Croft memorabilia and stacks of bestselling titles. Time to enter is running out as the closing date is next Tuesday, April 21.

Open to all readers, three winners will scoop a signed and framed A3 Lara Croft artwork original from the Tomb Raider titles, a limited edition Lara Croft brown leather flying jacket worth £200, Tomb Raider II on CD-Rom plus the merchandising pack "Lethal, Loaded and Irresistible: Everything You Ever Wanted From Lara Croft" and a further ten Eidos Interactive titles — a mix of PlayStation and PC CD-Rom formats for optimum family fun.

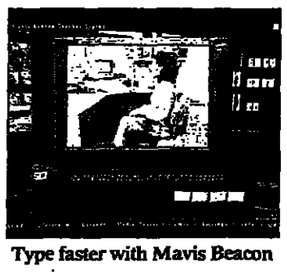
Ten runners-up will walk away with equally attractive prize bundles: a navy blue Eidos Interactive fleece jacket plus exactly the same software stacks as our main winners — Tomb Raider II and the Lara Croft merchandising pack plus ten other assorted Eidos best-sellers.

The theme for Cyberspace Forty-Two is "HAL's Revenge — Two Thousand and Gone". To enter, you must imagine that you are on a life support machine and HAL, Arthur C. Clarke's menacing computer in *2001: A Space Odyssey* decides to turn you off. You have four minutes to convince him to turn you back on. In no more than 150 words, continue the following conversation in the funniest possible way: "Don't do it, HAL . . ."

Equally important is the second part of the competition. Paramount Pictures has won the rights to Lara Croft for a live action movie spin-off vehicle for the game character. The search is on to cast Lara and front-runners include Liz Hurley and Rhona Mitra. For part two of Cyberspace Forty-Two, nominate the most unsuitable person to play the snake-hipped hero and explain your reasons.

Your entry must include your name, address and telephone number. Since Tomb Raider II carries a 15 certificate, if you are younger please get your parents' permission before entering and include your age in your details. Postal entries should be sent to Cyberspace Forty-Two, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. E-mail entries may be sent to *cyber@dircon.co.uk* so long as they are headed "Cyberspace Forty-Two". Normal *Times* competition rules apply.

NEW SOFTWARE



THERE IS a worryingly predictable trend now of companies releasing annual sequels to any game which sells well. But with the arrival of **Need for Speed III**, Electronic Arts is not even waiting a full year between products. Although I am an avid fan of this racing series, in marketing, as in comedy, timing is everything.

I reviewed Need for Speed II in this column last June and now, nine months later, we have the follow-up. Easily as compelling as its two predecessors, the game thrusts you into the driving seat for some unparalleled racing fun on open roads. A clutch of sharp new features includes hot-pursuit mode, in which police cars give chase when you are speeding and will lie in wait with roadblocks and even tyre spikes to ensure that you do not escape them. If you are caught three times, you are arrested and taken off the road.

The game is terrific, loaded with exceptional choices, onscreen information and outstanding graphics. I can foresee a problem for Electronic Arts releasing another sequel in the series so quickly, though: rather than buy it, owners of Need for Speed II might return that to get themselves an upgrade and save a bundle into the bargain.

■ **Verdict: 9 out of 10. Exceptional racing sequel. £39.99.**

PENGUINS can help you type better, at least they can in Mindscape's **Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing 8.0**. The latest update of the most successful typing tutor includes a new game called Penguin Crossing set in a 3D Antarctic environment. Hone typing skills and speeds by leading penguins around ice-floes.

Type faster with Mavis Beacon

Thanks to sinister-sounding "Adaptive Response Technology", the training programme monitors your ability and progress, then tailors itself to your strengths and weaknesses. By doing this, it helps to give your typing a smooth rhythm regardless of whether you are a fairly slow or rather competent typist. To accompany the rhythm, you can opt for a choice of background music styles like easy listening, jazz or mystic new-age.

The title has several other new features, accommodating "natural" ergonomic keyboards as well as standard QWERTY boards. A 25-minute live-action training video demonstrates ways to avoid repetitive strain injury, suggesting correct sitting positions and hand placements along with some special exercises. You can also download content from a dedicated Mavis Beacon website (*http://mavisbeacon.com*) to add more variety to the typing lessons and practice drills. Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing 8.0 runs on 486 or higher machines running Windows 3.1 or Windows 95.

■ **Verdict: 8 out of 10. Eccellent lewarn to touchg tyope tutor. £29.99.**

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 158

I	L	L	T	A	K	E	Y	O	U	H	O	M	E	A	G	A	I	N	K	A	T	H	L	E	E	N
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The winner of a collection of Oxford University Press titles, worth £100, is Miss E.A. Edworthy of Exeter, Devon

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q I should like to take a step further your recent answer saying that a husband, the host, should order his wife's chosen meal when dining with her in a restaurant. I dine frequently with female business acquaintances who are acting as the host and paying for my meal. More often than not, however, even at some of the very best restaurants, and even though my female host has chosen and ordered the wine, the waiter shows me, the male, the bottle and invites me to taste it.

When this happens, I remind the waiter politely that the lady ordered the wine and leave it to him to rectify what I believe is his mistake. On other occasions, when I know my host well, I smile discreetly at her and, to save embarrassment to the waiter, nod in acceptance of the wine I heard my host choose, and carry out the tasting. How would you react? — Don Gomery, Rotherfield, East Sussex.

A I hope with grace but firmness. Restaurants are one of the last bastions of sexism. There are, however, various little tricks that the male guest can perform to encourage restaurant staff to treat a female host with respect. These include: gesturing towards the woman when the waiter approaches you for the food order, wine choice or, indeed, with the bill. All these areas are the prerogative of the host, regardless of gender. Although many women hosts invite the male guest to choose and taste the wine, this gesture is within her gift and not that of a presumptuous waiter.



Q From time to time we have friends or relatives stay with us. They have full and private use of a bathroom. However, as the bathroom does not have a shower, we normally offer the use of our en-suite shower. Our question: should we expect or ask our guests to wipe around the shower cubicle after their use? Also, would your answer apply to both British and American guests? — N.J. Hill, Bridgwater, Somerset.

A The mark of a good guest is someone who leaves the bathroom exactly as he would like to find it. This little social grace applies to all nationalities.

Q I am manager of a hotel health club. I often find the constant flow of club users quite rude and discourteous. I always lead my staff by example and greet our club users with a welcoming smile and a "Hello, how may I help you?" However, I find that an increasing number of people make no effort to acknowledge our offer of help. Often I find that people enter the facility, approach the desk and utter their room number, or just say "towel", obviously with the expectation that I will defer to them without fuss. Am I right to complain about what I see as rudeness, or as I'm offering a service that is expected by our club users, do I "put up and shut up"? — Robert Thackeray, Reading, Berkshire.

A I'm afraid that as you are in a service industry there's not much you can do other than behave with such exemplary politeness that your good manners may rub off on your ill-bred clients. Alternatively, *in extremis*, you might consider changing your job to a club with a better class of customer. They do exist.

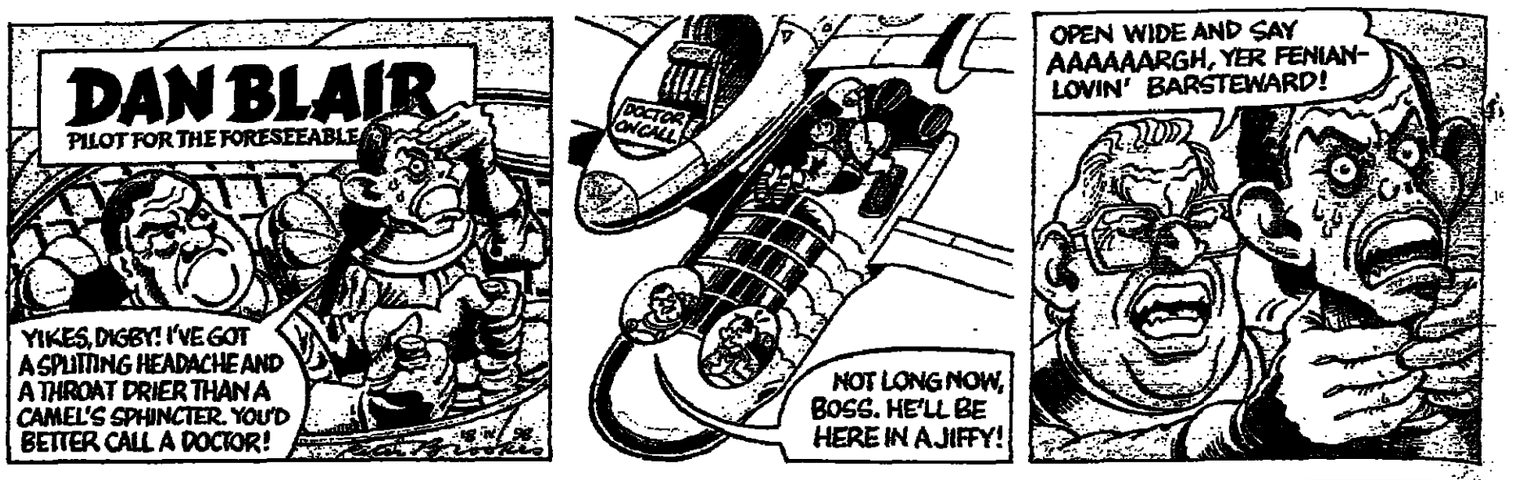
Q Occasionally some of us are invited to stay with friends or relations in a stately home — maybe once a year for a weekend. In this case should one leave a tip for the staff, as a house party of, say, 20 means a lot of work behind the scenes. Should any distinction be made between relations or friends owning the home? If one should leave a tip, how much per person for a 24-hour stay? — Martin Plumtre, Shropshire.

A House guests should always tip staff, with no discrimination between houses owned by aunts or acquaintances — after all, the workload is the same. The going rate varies, but should never be less than £5 per person per night. If, however, you are staying in a very grand house with lots of staff it is sensible to consult your hostess to find out what she considers appropriate.

Q Is there any significance, in fashion terms, on the manner in which the stripes on ties fall? Some run diagonally from the left shoulder, slanting to the right: some from the right shoulder to the left waist. I once heard that the former was "English" in concept: the latter "American". — Geoffrey Bubb, West Midlands.

A In Britain it has always been the custom for the stripes to run from top left to bottom right. This is known by the evocative and chivalrous epithet "from heart to sword". In America the slant is reversed. The origin of this is unknown, although there is an apocryphal story of a style setter who brought a British club tie back to America and was so pleased with it that he asked his tailor to make some more. However, he overlooked the fact that he was gazing in a mirror at the time he placed the order, and thus the stripes were reversed. It is alleged that from this mistake the American variation (high-right, low-left) was born.

● *The author is associate editor of GQ.*



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

HALDU
a. Sour cream sweet
b. A yellow tree
c. Boycott of shops

MONTELIMAR
a. Nougat
b. An ocean mountain
c. The sea urchin

NICENELLYISM
a. A primitive heresy
b. Prudery
c. A kind of acne

HAPAX LEGOMENON
a. Red cabbage
b. A solitary instance
c. A lyric metre

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

The Herschel family, active in the 18th and 19th centuries, was extraordinarily productive in astronomical discovery. Sir Frederick William Herschel (1738-1822) discovered Uranus in 1781. He also discovered two satellites of Saturn and the rotation of Saturn's rings. His sister, Caroline Lucretia Herschel, discovered eight comets, several nebulae and published a star catalogue, while Sir Frederick William's son, Sir John Frederick William Herschel, discovered 525 nebulae and clusters and in 1848 became President of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Question 1
If earth = 1, match these names and numbers: Neptune, Uranus, Saturn, Jupiter
18, 8, 16, 15

Question 2
If earth = 1, match these names and numbers: Pluto, Mars, Venus, Mercury
0.2408, 0.6152, 1.881, 248.5

Answers on page 35

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

I don't often have the time to *solve* a crossword these days, but a few weeks back I found myself settling down with a *Guardian* puzzle, as I listened to an excellent young traditional singer and munched shingara (samosa in English) on the Santiniketan Express, that runs between Calcutta and the site of the university founded by Tagore. *The Guardian* is syndicated each Sunday in *The Statesman*, the Calcutta newspaper. For the other six days of the week, I am glad to say, they use our puzzles. I visited the offices of *The Statesman* (taking a break from watching the Australians being put through the wringer at Eden Park) and discovered that they have been recycling our crosswords for 50 years: they also reprint many articles from *The Times*. I am looking forward to reading what the young reporter, Nessa Bose, who interviewed me, makes of our discussions if and when she writes a piece about me.

Our crossword is very popular, I was told — and considered the best and most challenging — among Anglophile Indians who have a remarkably deep knowledge of British culture (as illustrated, for example, in Tom Stoppard's play *Indian Ink*). However, just as there are novelists writing in Bengali as good if not better than the likes of Salman Rushdie and Vikram Seth who write in English, there is, I discovered with the help of 77-year-old Nilima Mukherjee, a tradition of subtle cryptic crosswords in Bengali. The grids are smaller, since each square contains not a single letter, but a compound symbol corresponding roughly to a syllable. Bengalis delight in verbal and literary banter and wordplay, and the clues, as interpreted for me, use devices not so different from those found in our cryptic clues, and also contain many literary references. Next week I will give some examples from a puzzle in the Bengali daily *Bartaman* (meaning *Today*).

● *The writer is Crossword editor of* The Times

PICTURE LINE

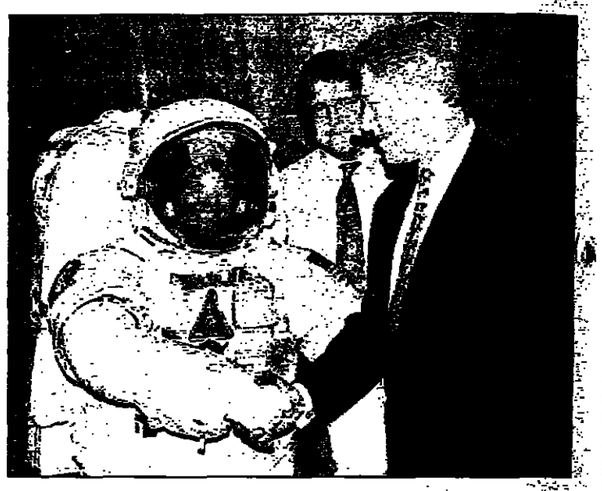


READERS are invited to suggest what was said when American President Bill Clinton met space-suit technician Amy Ross.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards, please — with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.
The closing date is Wednesday, April 22.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Gary Hinchcliffe, of Bridlington, East Yorkshire.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Well done Trimble." — *New graffito in Belfast*

"The mother of all treacheries." — *Ian Paisley on the Northern Ireland peace agreement*

"It is presumably quite difficult to burn a bail." — *Lord Darnley, whose mother-in-law's incinerated veil is now thought to constitute the Ashes*

"There is no reason why people cannot come to France and enjoy the atmosphere of the matches." — *French tourism minister Michelle Demessine invites ticketless football fans to France for the World Cup*

"If they don't want our money, Jamaica and Belize are just itching for it." — *Passenger on lesbian cruise ship banned from visiting the Bahamas*

"It is good for David Blunkett to experience what teachers have to put up with from unruly pupils." — *Union leader Nigel de Gruchy on heated NUT conference in Blackpool*

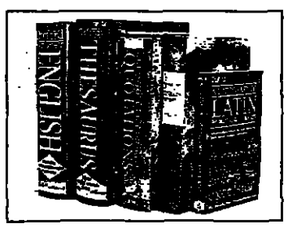
"If they say Mummy would have wanted this, I would like to do something." — *Earl Spencer on consulting Princes William and Harry about his Diana memorial plans at Althorp*

"Bicycles do take up space and time to tie up and look after." — *P&O spokesperson justifies decision to charge for cyclists on cross-Channel ferries*

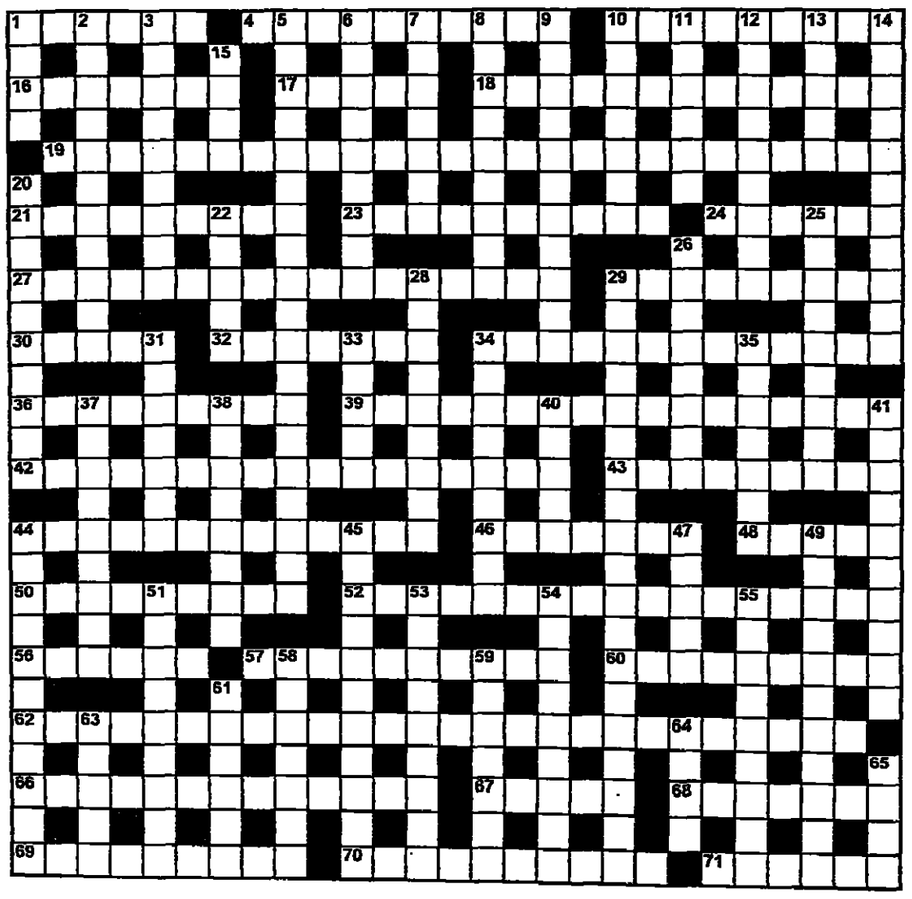
"What, I should like to know, is so great about being cool, anyway?" — *Comedian Ben Elton criticises the New Labour rebranding of the UK as cool Britannia*

"No technology in the world is proof against them" — *Timber treatment expert on a colony of termites found in Devon, 50 years after it had been "destroyed"*

JUMBO CROSSWORD 161



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are *The Oxford English Reference Dictionary* and *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations*. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 161, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, April 30. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on May 2



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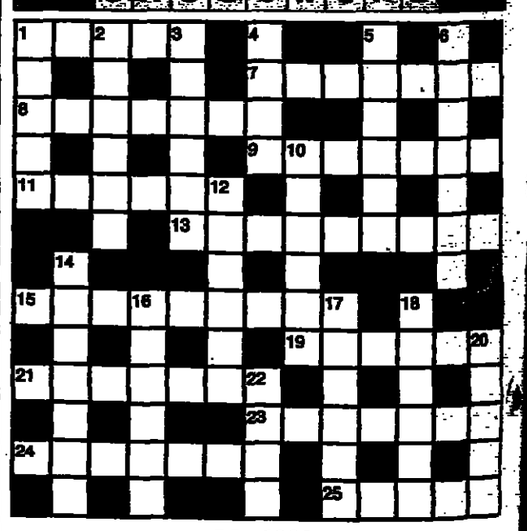
ACROSS

1 In hiding male boxer made challenge (6)
4 Timothy's great success — grasping I had lonely wife (5,5)
10 Plan the French page, showing the country's emblem (5,4)
16 Aviator snaps up very very cheap runabout (7)
17 One in rock backing makes profit (5)
18 Do wrong feeding diffident snob, serving wine with ice (6,7)
19 Act decisively, and use piece of dental floss (4,3,3,7,4,5)
21 The rounds, after misfire, fell short (9)
23 One with waistline spreading is lurking (4,2,4)
24 Conservative and defeated candidate become more intimate (6)
27 It ups the pressure, using mostly fish as starter to excellent dish (17)
29 Yellow or green? (9)
30 Desert me, failing to complete ceremony (5)
32 People here in France have succeeded in producing lenses (7)
34 Bath, perhaps — exact spot in which to find goddess (8-5)
36 Environmentalists recycled matchwood (9)
39 New currency given to masseur — see the point? He knows about reflexes (17)
42 I'm legendary, and yet I shouldn't be set apart (10,7)
43 Power of record with a noisy beat (9)
44 Pantomime excerpts featuring these days in colourful French art (13)
46 Defenceless Cockney safe and sound (7)
48 Joined pieces of wood cut at 45 degrees — or possibly 30 (5)
50 "Bighead" — some have this thrust upon them (9)
52 Why does one root for camouflaged troop carrier? (6,5,2,4)
56 Pound gets you some of the crispest lettuces (6)
57 Take one's bow to finish the match? (3,3,4)
60 Guide first of climbs in part of Asia — a rocky peak (9)
62 Mischief doesn't deserve resounding whacks — it can't be justified (3,4,2,3,5,3,6)
66 Start off diverting the rest — it may be a tarantula (7,6)
67 Yank's countryman receiving nothing (5)
68 Skill that is shown by bridge-players squeezed in diamonds (7)
69 Did not agree outside of one vessel is damaged (9)
70 He classifies diseases by numbers 0-43 — it's silly (10)
71 Investigator, in study, completely rejected mineral (6)

DOWN

1 Uncertain of the moment Jack left (4)
2 Womaniser could become randier, with help (11)
3 I get over a disordered mind (4,3,2)
5 Discovered hidden significance concerning notice in no man's land (4,7,3,5)
6 One knowing all the answers disposed to cram least (5,4)
7 Fish — a cry goes up — "We'll catch it!" (4-3)
8 Denying taunt about broadcast that's cliquey (9)
9 News-writer excited about introduction of unusual sausage (11)
10 Swot up on one Guglielmo, a physicist (7)
11 Small pot (6)
12 Engaged in fight, doctor and ex-PM almost scooped by journalist (9)
13 Miss Dunn leaves the Oval with no extra message (5)
14 Away game walkover for Scots? (5,6)
15 Dry but not quiet vault (4)
20 Raised help to send out less urgent messages, initially using several channels (10)
22 Stalk and bag head of moose (5)
25 Politician's party is on time (9)
26 Australian tree used as name given to Asian currency (8)
28 Claudius, queasy, eats nothing slightly tart (9)
29 City HGV emits carbon and retards growth of sunflowers? (9,10)
31 This'll pull a bird — that's the point about it! (7)
33 Some excavators in use to produce cavity (5)
34 Being in the field, maybe deal with computer accessory (4-5)
35 Software for good computer memory (7)
37 Being without bouquet makes love sullen? Not so! (9)
38 Smeared Leader during run-up (8)
40 Will S.'s wife put up with this dye? (5)
41 Stock of wood might be marred by it (10)
44 Turned on and set up treble (4-7)
45 No wonder DDT gets rubbished and suppressed (11)
47 Oddly darker and terrifying (5)
49 Crowds around race on Long Island observed murders (11)
51 Gabby's chat show looking up (9)
53 Runs into the ground where bowler's session does the trick (9)
54 Day-old chick — line briefly offered among many (9)
55 Find cutey resolved to show productiveness (9)
58 Flat in North Streatham — I paid inordinate deposit up front (7)
59 Name applied to a right whale? Not quite (7)
61 The importance of saying "Hang on" (6)
63 Birds Hemingway detailed (5)
64 Carefully examine suit (4)
65 Tiller made of hard wood (4)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1383

ACROSS

1 Hurl; indulgent spell (5)
7 Documented; formally but not practically (2,5)
8 Distinction; bullet diameter (7)
9 Doncaster classic (2,5)
11 Twain hero; sounds like *type of bean* (6)
13 Annual admission of income (3,6)
15 Non-gov't warship (9)
19 Aptitude; ancient money (6)
21 Rifle-fixed stabber (7)
23 Clumsy (7)
24 Defer to another time (7)
25 Come in; write down (5)

DOWN

1 Concentrate (on) (5)
2 Partner's family (2-4)
3 Gallows (6)
4 Carries out; some deer (4)
5 Dormant; potentially there (6)
6 Boisterous partying (7)
10 At which to aim (6)
12 Baby's toy; loose component noise (6)
14 V Woolf novel: — Furioso (*Ariosto*) (7)
16 Haitian animism (6)
17 Fester (6)
18 Meal, food (6)
20 Royal house of Henry VII (5)
22 Armoured vehicle; fuel holder (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1382
ACROSS: 6 Clock watcher 7 Silent 8 Sombre 9 Sloe 10 Honorary 12 Bacteria 16 Slum 18 Kitbag 20 Summit 21 Accidentally
DOWN: 1 Movement 2 Sketch 3 Samson 4 Scam 5 Terror 6 Chill 11 Resemble 13 Apiece 14 Ragged 15 Assets 17 Unity 19 Brie

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE

The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7-£2.99), The Times Crosswords (Book 20 Cryptic), The Times Jumbo Crosswords Book 3 is available to Times readers for just £4 (normally £5) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
The Times Computer Crosswords on disk, may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.
To order simply call 0990 134 459 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/POs please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2YX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

